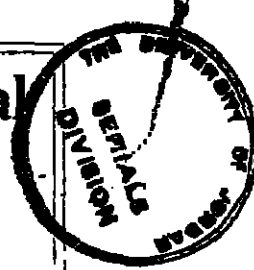


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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1996 • TISHREI 28, 5757 • 29 JAMAD 1, 1417



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu bows his head last night after laying a wreath by the panel of the Armored Corps Memorial...

Arafat: Nobody can threaten the Palestinians

IN his first major speech since September's violent clashes, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday sharply attacked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, warning that the Palestinians would not accept peace at any price.

JON IMMANUEL and DAVID MAKOVSKY banner headline, "Arafat cannot prevent an intifada." Arafat warned in the interview that "it could explode at any moment."

week saying that Israel seeks to resolve the Hebron issue speedily. Despite this, it seems Arafat suspects that Netanyahu is seeking to drag out the talks beyond the US elections on November 5.

Closure of territories to be eased from Sunday

THE closure on the territories is to be eased significantly, removing the seal around most Palestinian-controlled cities, allowing in 35,000 laborers and opening all the crossings in the Gaza Strip.

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN Head of the General Security Service Ami Ayalon and others. Starting Sunday, Israel will raise the number of Palestinian workers from the territories allowed into Israel to 35,000, more than double the 14,000 currently being let in.

has barred most of the two million Palestinians from Israel remains in place. Mordechai also ordered the Karni and Sufa Crossings to resume full operation in order to ease the movement of goods in and out of the Gaza Strip.

Hussein calls Weizman, invites him to visit

JORDAN'S King Hussein telephoned President Ezer Weizman in Caesarea yesterday evening to invite him to visit Jordan. Weizman responded that he would be happy to come to Amman after coordinating the visit with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies spokesman Shai Bazak. Keinan had spent the entire day denying that there had been any contacts with the Jordanians.

took office four months ago. "We are very much appealing to the Israeli government and to [Netanyahu] himself to seize control of the moment ... and show the statesmanship needed right now to save the process," Kabariti said.

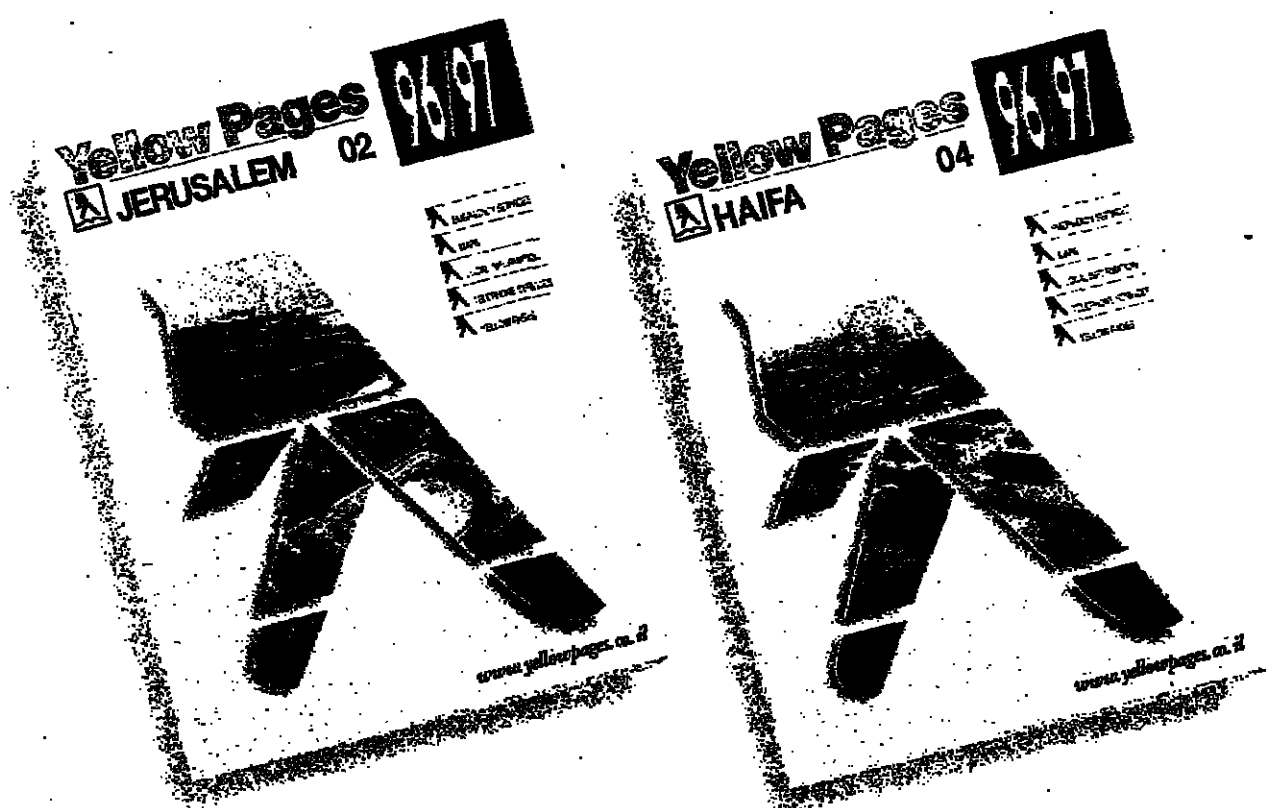
Solomon's Stables open to Moslem worshipers today

MOSLEM worshipers will be permitted to pray in the newly renovated Solomon's Stables next to Al-Aksa Mosque today, after the Jerusalem Municipality appeared to give its final approval yesterday.

BILL HUTMAN David Biton were among the municipal officials who toured Solomon's Stables yesterday morning. The municipality was cautious in its reaction to the planned opening. In a statement, the city spokesman said the municipality is coordinating its dealings on the matter with the government and security establishment.

"The municipality gave the false impression that the Wakf was building a new mosque on the Temple Mount, when that was not the case at all," a security source said. Senior police officers also visited Solomon's Stables yesterday, and reaffirmed the police wouldn't stand in the way of its opening.

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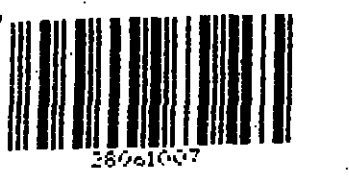
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Table with 3 columns: SHABBAT BEGINS, ENDS, and locations (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, BeerSheva, Eilat) with corresponding times.

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# Weizman: Arafat sending conflicting messages

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday chided Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for saying he could not prevent the outbreak of a new intifada.

"This contradicts what Arafat told me this week" during his visit to Caesarea, Weizman said, adding that he had sent the PA head a message to this effect.

But Weizman at the same time intimated that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was not doing enough.

"I hope [Netanyahu] will take up a few more matters," Weizman said, without specifying. "I would like to see another team taking it [the ironing out of difficulties with the peace process] out of my hands. I will be happy to go

BATSHEVA TSUR

back to my house in Caesarea."

The president refused to discuss rumors in the Hebrew press of strained relations with the Prime Minister's Office over the handling of the peace process and alleged charges that he was overstepping the limits of his position.

"Everything I do is coordinated with the prime minister," he said in reference to his meetings with Arab leaders. "He has given me his blessing for my trip to Cairo."

The prime minister's spokesman, Shai Barak, refused to comment on the question of strained ties with Beit Hanassi or on Weizman's suggestion that Netanyahu be more

active in the peace process. "We have no comment. Everything is coordinated with, and approved by, the prime minister," Bazak said tersely.

Observers in Jerusalem said that Weizman, who is seen as moderate, was being used as a pawn by the Arabs to delegitimize the Netanyahu government. This was part of a larger Arab plan to try and change the government in Israel, they said.

Weizman, who was criticized under the previous government for taking a political stand when he called on former premier Shimon Peres to "pause and think," was now under fire from the present government for allegedly taking too political a role, they noted.

# Labor slams Netanyahu over 'deteriorating' relations with Arabs

THE Labor Party is deeply concerned over the deterioration of the relations with Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians as a result of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's policy.

Party chairman Shimon Peres, who spoke at Labor's executive meeting yesterday, criticized Netanyahu for not revealing the confrontation and sharp exchange with King Hussein at the Washington summit.

"It is deeply troubling that the Israeli public doesn't know the truth. Until I read Tom Friedman in *The New York Times* this morning, I too did not know what happened in Washington, and that King Hussein attacked the government and Netanyahu in a very harsh way," he said.

MICHAL YUDELMAN

Peres added that "it's a matter of policy. Nothing comes back by itself."

Speakers expressed profound concern vis-a-vis developments which might occur following the political difficulties with the Palestinians and Jordan, and voiced fear this would cause an even worse deterioration in relations with Egypt.

MK Efraim Sneh spoke of the crisis in relations with Jordan, stating that "Netanyahu screwed the whole thing up. The most important achievement in Israel's strategy was the peace with Jordan, the Arab state with which we share the longest border. It was the warmest peace we had, the

best that could be expected. But the irresponsible policy of one who does not understand how the Middle East works turned Jordan from a friend to an enemy. Egypt is in an even worse situation, as it was initially more distant from us."

MK Haim Ramon said that "Netanyahu didn't understand what we told him all along, that the peace with Jordan was conditional on peace with the Palestinians. He kept talking about the 'good' peace with Jordan and the 'bad' one with the Palestinians. He didn't grasp that when the peace with the Palestinians is stuck, it influences the situation in Jordan, whose king is carrying the whole weight of the peace on his back."

## Ben-Elissar to request US aid for Palestinians

DAVID MAKOVSKY

AMBASSADOR to the US Elisha Ben-Elissar is expected to soon phone Congressman Ben Gilman (Republican-New York) on behalf of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and ask that he release \$10 million in US aid to the Palestinians being held up since last November, sources said yesterday.

During a recent visit to the US, Netanyahu acquiesced to a personal direct appeal by President Bill Clinton that he phone Gilman and that the money be released.

Gilman has said that he is holding up the money until Yasser Arafat divulges the extent of PLO assets. Clinton believes a request from Netanyahu would carry more weight than an appeal from a Democratic president.

However, Netanyahu did not act as promised, although the reason remains unclear. This failure to keep his word has exacerbated the friction between Netanyahu and the Clinton administration.

Thus, it seems that the timing of the Ben-Elissar phone call is designed to narrow the points of contention between the Clinton administration and Netanyahu.

## Mubarak warns Israel of difficulties at economic forum

News agencies

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak yesterday again warned Israel that it would face problems during the upcoming economic conference unless there is progress in Middle East peace talks.

"If the Israelis continue to refuse to carry out signed agreements, their presence at the economic conference will be difficult," he said. "We will not stop them from coming, but I hope the Israelis do something before the conference is held or Arab countries will create problems for them."

Mubarak did not elaborate. "It is in Egypt's interest to hold the meeting and several international firms are willing to attend," he added.

The conference is considered important to the peace process because it will help integrate Israel into the region's economy, and Washington had insisted it be convened as scheduled.

The conference will take place from November 12 to 14, with 85

states and more than 25 international organizations present.

"I have listened to Israel's promises to remain committed to their agreements, but until now nothing has happened," Mubarak said. "I hope they make progress during the next few months."

Mubarak meets President Ezer Weizman in Cairo on Monday. Meanwhile, the National Infrastructure Ministry announced that Minister Ariel Sharon will visit Egypt very soon, at Mubarak's invitation.

## Settlers threaten protest over continuing construction freeze

HERB KEINON

SETTLEMENT leaders threatened yesterday to "take off the gloves" and actively protest against the government if "the continuous freeze on building in Judea and Samaria" is not rescinded.

"This government, a government we supported, is preventing continued building in the settlements," said Shaul Mizrahi, head of the Givat Ze'ev Local Council. He said that the government is preventing development not only in areas deep in the heart of the territories, like Elon Moreh or Yitzhar, but also in areas just a few minutes from Jerusalem, such as Givat Ze'ev and Ma'aleh Adumim.

The anger of the settlement leaders came to a boil after Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who must approve any construction in the settlements, refused to allow a meeting scheduled to deal with Ma'aleh Adumim residents who want to enclose their balconies.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said that Mordechai takes into consideration all legal and security considerations before given approval to construction.

Nisan Sloniensky, head of the Elkana Local Council, said he thinks the decision not to allow construction in the settlements, a few weeks after various plans at different stages of approval were given the okay, shows that the decision is politically motivated.

"I think the government is afraid that this will enrage the Arabs, and they will tell their police to fire on our soldiers again," Sloniensky said.

The Council of Jewish settlements is scheduled to hold an "emergency" meeting on the matter this morning, and draw up possible plans of action.

In a letter sent to all ministers in advance of today's cabinet meeting, Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, wrote: "The defense minister has refused requests by the Housing Ministry to sign contracts for the development of infrastructure around Jerusalem, in Ma'aleh Adumim, Kiryat Sefer, and Betar Ilit. In the past, it was reported that these permits were already granted."

Wallerstein also protested that the government had empowered Mordechai to review every development project in the territories at a number of different stages. This constant re-review, settler leaders claim, will make it unlikely that any project will be approved.

In a related matter, Kiryat Arba settlement leaders have called for a march tomorrow night from the settlement to the Lapid junction to protest the "Peres-Arafat agreement" on redeployment in Hebron. Though this was termed an "emergency" march, settlement leaders are still hesitant to say that it is against the present government.



Palestinian policemen shield themselves from the dust and pebbles kicked up by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's helicopter as it arrives in Ramallah, where he attended a Palestinian Council meeting yesterday. (AP)

## Explosion near synagogue worries Hungarian Jews

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - The explosion of a small bomb near Europe's largest synagogue heightened concern yesterday in Hungary's Jewish community that a pattern may be developing.

The bomb exploded on Wednesday night in Budapest in a dustbin near the Dohanyi Utca synagogue, which is across the street from the smaller Heroes' Synagogue.

The blast scattered rubbish over a 20-meter radius, but caused no injuries or other damage, police said.

"It's a bit dangerous, but I suppose the police can catch these people," said Peter Feldmajer, president of the Confederation of Hungarian Jewish Communities.

"The police should see it is a serious thing. It is not a joke," Feldmajer said.

## Ramon: I arranged Deri-Abbas meeting

MICHAL YUDELMAN

MK Haim Ramon, who arranged a "secret" meeting Wednesday night between Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri and Arafat's number two man Mahmoud Abbas, said yesterday that it was easier to hold such meetings now than before the elections.

Ramon said on Israel Radio that "meetings like this should have taken place before. But before the elections Shas's voters would have been more critical of it. Today, after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu shook Arafat's hands and claimed he was enchanted by him, it was easier."

Ramon said Abbas - who was curious about Deri, Shas and Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's

positions - asked to meet Deri. Ramon approached Deri, who after consulting Yosef and advising Netanyahu, was glad to come to the meeting.

"It's important for Shas, which is the second largest party in the coalition and a moderate party, to meet the number two man in the Palestinian Authority," he added.

Ramon said Abbas's main complaint was that for the past three months, until this past Sunday, no negotiations were being held with the Palestinians at all. Dan Shomron, the head of the steering committee for negotiations with the Palestinians, came to one

meeting and said he was not authorized to do anything, Abbas told Ramon.

"There are many problems between the two sides. If Netanyahu had said let's sit down and solve them, the Palestinians may have been more flexible on the Hebron issue. But when nothing happens, then bloody events occur," Ramon said.

"I'm glad Deri came to the meeting and the two got to know each other and talk. Only direct talks can advance the peace process. Creating confidence between the two sides - that's the essential element which is missing between the Palestinian Authority and the prime minister and his people."

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Tickets numbered 868154, 130543, 705879, 880382, 179701, 637736, 421753, and 329958 all were good for NIS 5,000, while tickets ending in 11600, 68424, 35866, 19702, 44175, 37578, 31809, 35976, 58180, 53777, 02059, 97722, 94039, 71890, 47965, 37657, 70750, 36970, and 89445 all were good for NIS 1,000.

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Arafat's intifada threat

If anyone had any doubts as to what kind of peace partner Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is, Arafat himself provided some illuminating insights yesterday in an interview with the Egyptian weekly Al-Mussawar.

In the interview, Arafat said he will not be able to prevent a new intifada if the Palestinians are not satisfied with the results of the Erez talks. This statement should set off warning bells among even the most devoted adherents of the Oslo Accords.

At the Washington summit a week ago - after having violated his numerous promises on this subject by initiating a three-day shooting war - Arafat once again solemnly promised that the Palestinians would henceforth refrain from violence as a means of settling their grievances against Israel. He reiterated this promise only two days ago during a visit with President Ezer Weizman in Caesarea. Yet already, he is threatening renewed violence if Palestinian demands are not met at Erez.

The interview makes it clear that when Arafat says he "can not" prevent renewed violence, what he means is "will not." He told the paper the reason he would not be able to prevent a new intifada is "because I cannot force myself to agree to oppression, humiliation, suppression, degradation and injustice." However, since preventing violence by one's own people is one of the most basic tasks of a leader, it actually makes no difference whether he can or not or will not prevent the violence. The necessary conclusion is the same in either case: That his value as a peace partner is questionable.

For perhaps the first time since the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, there is near unanimity in Israel that the Palestinians have some legitimate grievances. At a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier this week, for instance, MKs from Meretz to Moledet joined together to call for an end to the seven-month-old closure which has strangled the Palestinian economy and created a 50% unemployment rate in Gaza.

At the same time, however, there is an almost equally unprecedented consensus that Israel has some legitimate grievances as well. Even the staunchest supporters of the accords, such as former prime minister Shimon Peres, were shocked by the sight of rifles given to the PA by Israel being turned on Israeli soldiers. Labor consented to Arafat's demand for a strong police force armed with Kalashnikov rifles - though it would be hard to find another police force in the world which bears such arms - on the understanding that they would be used to fight Islamic terror. Instead, Palestinian Police led the attacks on Israeli positions throughout the territories during the recent violence. The result is that even Peres is insisting that those policemen who fired on Israelis be tried and punished.

Grievances, even real and serious ones, between two parties to a peace treaty are not uncommon. The sine qua non of any peace

agreement, however, is that such disputes cannot be resolved by violence if the agreement is to survive.

Israel has consistently abided by this principle. Despite a wave of suicide bombings earlier this year which claimed almost 60 Israeli lives in two weeks, the government refused to authorize military action against the terrorist bases in the autonomous region. Even during the height of the bloodshed two weeks ago, though IDF soldiers were forced to fire in self-defense, the government gave the army strict orders that it was not to enter the Palestinian-controlled areas or open fire with the tanks it brought into position near the worst of the fighting.

Arafat, however, has made it clear that he is willing to use violence as a tool over the most trivial of issues. Two weeks ago, the Palestinian cabinet authorized the rioting which led to 15 Israeli and five dozen Palestinian dead, merely over the opening of a new exit to a tunnel which runs along an undisputed Jewish site: The Western Wall. Now, he is threatening a new intifada - this time, with Israeli-supplied guns rather than just rocks - over the extremely minimal security demands Israel has raised in response to the violence two weeks ago. Israel is not, for instance, asking that the PA Police be deprived of their rifles; it is asking only that in Hebron, where the IDF and the PA Police will be in unavoidably close contact even after Israel withdraws, these rifles be replaced by pistols.

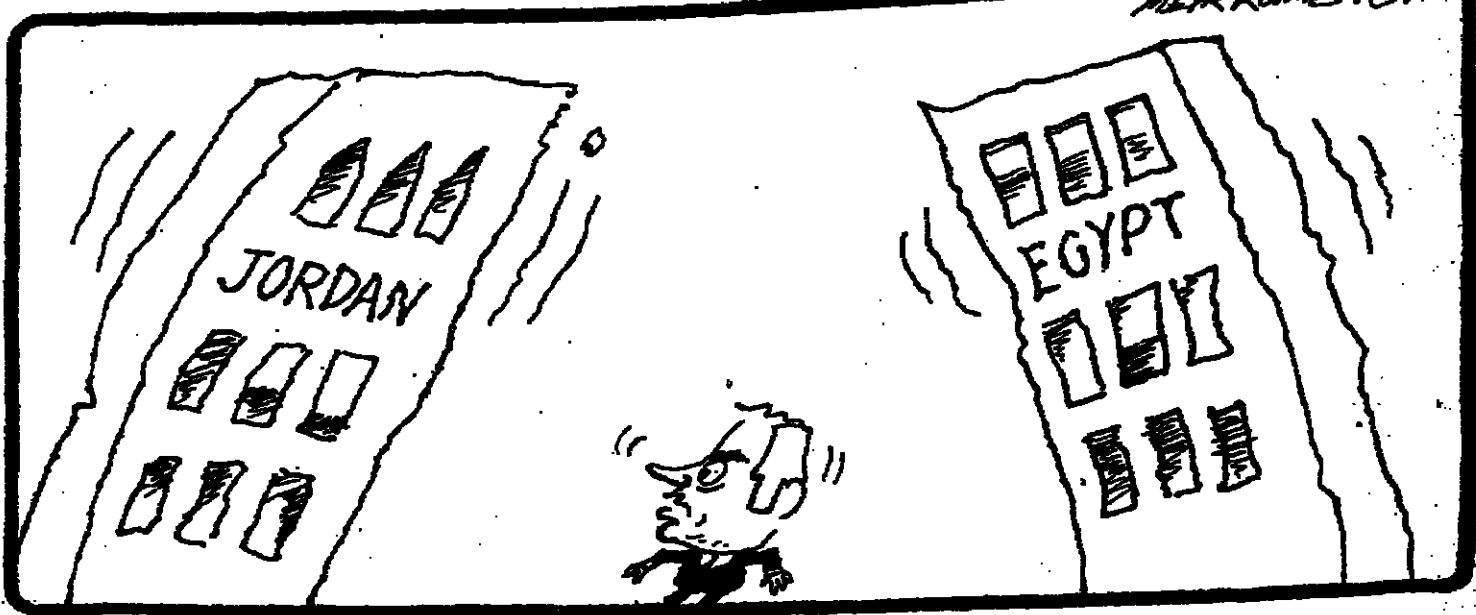
One has to question Arafat's commitment to peace if he is prepared to threaten a new intifada over such a minor issue. The implications for the future are frightening. If this is Arafat's response to arming policemen in Hebron with rifles instead of guns, his response to an Israeli refusal to give him eastern Jerusalem or accept a Palestinian right of return to Haifa and Jaffa is liable to be a full-scale war.

Arafat insisted in the interview that the size of the concession he is being asked to make is unimportant, because this is a matter of principle. The Palestinians want the Oslo Accords implemented "in full," he said, and would prefer a complete breakdown of the peace process to accepting anything less.

If Arafat actually meant this, it would be a welcome change. Israelis have been waiting for three years for him to implement numerous critical sections of the Oslo Accords, from extraditing wanted terrorists to disarming the Hamas to clearly amending the PLO covenant.

Unfortunately, it is clear that what Arafat actually means by this statement is that Israel should fulfill every minor detail of its commitments while he is free to continue ignoring even the most major of his obligations.

In any court of law, a contract honored by one side only is considered invalid. The court of Israeli public opinion has been much more lenient so far. But if Arafat persists in his threats of violence - the most fundamental Oslo violation of all - even this court's patience is liable to expire.



Solomon's stables & stability

MOSHE ZAK

THE documents passed to Israel by Jonathan Pollard included a CIA assessment that when the number of settlers reached 100,000, an irreversible situation would be created. That was quite right. In the Oslo agreements even the PLO came to terms with the existence of the settlements, for the five-year transition period at least.

This week's fevered discussions at the Erez checkpoint prove another thing: that the Oslo interim agreement is irreversible too. One can argue about modifications or debate security coordination, but signed agreements are closed. All that's left open for Israel and the Palestinians is to discuss the permanent settlement.

But to ensure satisfactory results there, great care must be taken to see that no arrangements that might prejudice the permanent settlement are instituted during the interim one.

Some people initially claimed that only agreements with states or international organizations could be defined as international agreements, and that this certainly didn't apply to the agreement with the PLO. But by dint of Israel's request that the signing ceremony be held in Washington and that President Clinton give it added force by appending his own signature, the agreement became an international commitment succeeding governments could not ignore.

Contrary to the prevailing assessment when the agreement was signed that it allowed for reformulation at every stage of implementation, it soon became apparent that even those who opposed the Oslo process could not turn the clock back; not because there was no better way to peace, but because at every stage "facts" were created, effectively tying the hands of any subsequent government. These facts traced borders and gave shape to the control of territory.

When five cities were handed over to the Palestinian Authority, justice minister David Liba'i, known as a dove, nevertheless wanted to hold back on Kalkilya, which is next to the Green Line. He claimed, rightly, that it would set the seal on the border of Israel

during the negotiation of the agreement. Peres hesitated over Hussein's demand that he be granted favored status in the upkeep of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, concerned that such an obligation would tread on Palestinian toes.

But Yitzhak Rabin decided in favor of this commitment, which was duly included in the peace treaty. In reminding Netanyahu

The treaty with Jordan is irreversible but a warm peace requires confirmation of Hussein's role vis-a-vis the holy shrines

even in the permanent settlement. But the government didn't take his advice, and today there is clearly no way back. In that area the border has been fixed.

When the government decided to arm the Palestinian Police the opposition pleaded: "Don't give them guns." Today Shimon Peres taunts his former critics, who have meanwhile come to power: "Why didn't you take their guns away?" - as if the previous government's agreements could be annulled.

THE PEACE treaty with Jordan isn't an interim agreement but a permanent settlement; all the more, therefore, does it need to be adhered to in every detail. It is based on unprecedented national consensus, as expressed in the Knesset's vote. King Hussein reemphasized this in an interview this week.

There were differences of opinion among the political leadership

last week that he lacks Rabin's vision the king was hinting that the prime minister should follow Rabin's line in retaining Jordan's special role vis-a-vis the holy shrines.

Following the opening of the exit to the Hashemite Tunnel and the attendant crisis, the Jordanians realized that Israel had infringed the terms of the treaty back in January by conducting negotiations with the Palestinian-controlled Wafk in Jerusalem and the PA's Ministry of Religious Affairs. These negotiations resulted in a package deal whereby permission for Moslem prayer would be granted in Solomon's Stables in exchange for the Palestinians turning a blind eye to the opening of the tunnel exit.

Israel totally ignored the fact of a Jordanian-controlled Wafk existing on the Temple Mount. Jordan's historic role and its special status regarding the holy shrines, laid down in black and

white in the peace treaty, were forgotten. This naturally infuriated the king.

Jordan has no way back from the peace treaty, and neither does Israel. The two countries are condemned to live in peace - but it should have come as no surprise that such an Israeli infringement of the peace treaty would lead to Jordanian protests and criticism.

Jordan rightly expected Israel, sovereign over Jerusalem, to take its side in Palestinian provocations intended to squeeze Jordan's influence out of Jerusalem. But when Israel failed to respect Jordan's special role, Hussein felt pushed to join ranks with the Arab countries and indulge in pan-Arab rhetoric. An angry king overreacted and came out with some exaggerated statements, but these should be viewed in perspective.

The friction between Jerusalem and Amman can be smoothed out. Jordanian bitterness can be assuaged.

But it isn't dramatic steps or announcements of special cabinet meetings that will do this, nor the despatching of a special envoy to the king. What is required is a return to the quiet diplomacy that has characterized Israel-Jordanian relations from the beginning.

As a first step the prime minister should send a personal letter to King Hussein apologizing for the error committed by the previous government regarding Solomon's Stables; the letter should also explicitly promise faithful observance of the clause in the peace treaty that grants Jordan preferential status in Jerusalem's holy places.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on public affairs.

Land-plus for no peace

RON TIRA

EGYPT'S President Mubarak has been hailed in certain circles, including much of the world media, as a "champion of peace." His admirers credit him with "trying to dampen Arab skepticism about Israel, assuring [his] citizens and... neighbors that it can be trusted" (Douglas Jehl, in this past weekend's New York Times).

A closer look at what's happening, though, reveals a reality that could hardly be more different. In the Camp David accords Israel agreed to give Egypt the whole of the Sinai, with its strategic depth, oil fields and air bases as well as willingly evacuating settlements for the first time in its history. In addition it agreed to recognize the Palestinian people and enter into the autonomy agreement. In exchange Israel contracted for what could in contemporary terms be called a "full peace."

But what is the actual content of this peace? During the almost two decades that have passed since the Camp David accords, Israeli-Egyptian trade relations have not only seen no meaningful development; they are in fact non-existent. What limited economic activity does exist is one-sided - a few Israeli investments in Egypt and Israeli tourism.

A similarly disappointing reality exists in other areas like cultural relations and the Egyptian state-controlled media's attitude to Israel. Throughout this period Egypt has concentrated on an impressive military buildup; estimates are that its army is the strongest and

most advanced of Arab forces. It is certainly much stronger than anything required to defend Egypt against other neighbors like Libya or Sudan.

The Egyptian army's "reference-enemy" - meaning the projected adversary against which the Egyptian forces are training, equipping themselves and are deployed - remains Israel. The expensive tunnels constructed

never honored Israel with a state visit is dismissed by many Israelis as meaningless, and yet it is highly significant in Arab culture.

Sometimes one might even be tempted to think that for the Cairo palace "diplomacy is the continuation of war by other means," to paraphrase Clausewitz. This Egyptian political attitude has spanned both Likud and Labor governments.

Look at what Israel gave Egypt and what it got and answer this: Does Israel really understand the Middle East?

under the Suez Canal were built to accommodate far more "traffic" than the most optimistic civilian-use predictions could require.

The most troubling fact, however, is that Israel didn't acquire a political ally in Cairo. Egypt, which found itself politically reinforced by its peace with Israel, mainly in the US, has been leading every possible political battle against Israel.

It has pressed Arab and African countries not to normalize ties with Israel; lobbied Washington against aiding Israel in absorbing Russian immigrants; pulled every possible string in its Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty campaign; opposed Israel in international forums and continually sided with Israel's opponents, including in times of crisis like the recent one.

That President Mubarak has

IT IS interesting to compare this with Israeli-Syrian relations. From the end of the Yom Kippur war till today Israel has enjoyed a peaceful border with both Egypt and Syria - and yet Israel has paid no meaningful price to Syria. In fact Syria has a better "peace" (in the sense of absence of war) with Israel than with any of its other neighbors.

In spite of a formal peace with Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, each of these four Syrian borders has seen more violence than the post-'73 Israeli-Syrian border. Unlike the "rehabilitation" as a result of Egypt's peace with Israel that has brought it American economic and military aid, Syria continues to weaken on both these accounts - a good explanation, perhaps, of Syrian "peaceability."

Consequently Damascus wields far less political weight against Israel than does Cairo.

In spite of recent rhetoric by Egyptian leaders amounting to a proclamation that Egypt's peace is conditional upon Israel meeting new demands, the likelihood of an immediate eruption of violence with our southern neighbor is nonetheless very low.

Having said that, one must be watchful of Egypt's impressive military abilities. Ever-increasing Egyptian internal unrest, not to mention the recent assassination attempts on president Mubarak's life, raise more questions about the possible use such military abilities might be put to in future.

The Egyptian army's dependence upon the US is only a limited comfort, in particular with regard to extreme political circumstances such as internal Egyptian political struggles or the eruption of a crisis in the region. After all, Iran fought Iraq with American equipment years after American aid was no longer available.

The most fundamental and troubling question that remains is this: If Israel gave Egypt "land-plus" and got in exchange a naked peace, a reinforced political foe and an increasingly powerful potential military adversary, does this mean there is something wrong with our perception of the Middle East?

The writer, a former head of a section in IAF intelligence, practices corporate law in Tel Aviv.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUPERIOR NEGOTIATING SKILL

Sir, - One must credit Mr. Arafat with another coup worthy of a Nasser. He has succeeded in demonstrating that he can call out a riot over anything, on a moment's notice, and lay the blame for it on his opposition. The technique worked brilliantly in 1936 and thereabouts against the British, who could think of no response but to back down, and it is just the latest example of superior Arab negotiating skill.

The "land for peace" formula is another such. Of course peace can never be purchased, neither for land nor money nor favors of another kind. The very offer to do so, in fact, makes it abundantly plain that the negotiator is desperate. His opposite number would be a fool, and worse, a bad agent for his principal, if he did not immediately up the ante.

Certainly Mr. Arafat wants peace, but at the right time, not yet. At the moment, he has the best chance for peace, since Mr. Netanyahu is constantly referred to as a "rightist" and a "hard-liner," like Mr. Nixon regarding China or Mr. Begin over Egypt. The truth is that only one who is seen to be a hard-liner can

make a peace, such as these men made. Why then does Mr. Arafat not jump at the chance?

Because he is an abler negotiator than the Israelis. And the reason for that is not that he is a super-genius, although to be sure he is nobody's fool. The reason is that Mr. Netanyahu does not make policy as Mr. Arafat does, but despite his popular mandate, he merely coordinates an uneasy coalition of prima donnas. In such a match, all the advantages are with the autocrat, especially with regard to speed and flexibility of response.

Arafat will have the public support of his people, on the grounds that they have no viable alternative. It does not in the least hurt Bibi to be called hard-liner, because that strengthens his hand in negotiation. But it is disastrous to have him seen as weak or with eroding popular support. That will suggest to the Arab opposition that he is desperate, as Mr. Peres was seen to be. And that, in turn, will call for new Arab demands.

PROF. ALLEN H. PODET Buffalo, N.Y.

OSLO: NULL AND VOID

Sir, - Any legal contract or agreement comprising several conditions has to be kept in toto. One cannot select certain conditions to keep and breach others.

The moment the Palestinians exceeded the number of armed "policemen" provided for in the Oslo Accord, the agreement was broken; when he refused to extradite terrorists and murderers who had sought refuge in his territory, Oslo was dead; and when Arafat failed to curb violence, Oslo was null and void.

By committing these breaches, any obligation on the other party, namely Israel, to abide by the agreement, ceases to exist. All the above

breaches by the Palestinians predate the time the Hebron redeployment became due. There is, therefore, no obligation on Netanyahu to abide by it. The fact that the Peres government chose to ignore these breaches of the agreement ex gratia does not reinstate the agreement and the electors gave the answer by failing to return the Peres government.

Nevertheless, the world is pressuring Netanyahu to accept the Hebron redeployment condition without any adjustments for security considerations. Where were these same people when Arafat broke his commitments?

KURT ZENTNER Jerusalem.

BRAVO TO NETANYAHU

Sir, - It was astonishing to learn of the lack of support for Premier Netanyahu over the recent conflict with the Palestinians.

I was even more astonished to hear Shimon Peres state on BBC television that there isn't anything in Hebron that is holy or sacred to Jews! Mr. Peres must be a considerable *am ha'aretz* if he thinks that the tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives are not holy to Jews. The irony is that the most sacred places to Jews in Israel have either a monastery or a mosque built on them.

Bravo to Prime Minister Netanyahu for refusing to close the Hashemite Tunnel, parts of which have been in existence for thousands of years. Last year, I visited this tunnel and was greatly moved by the experience, to think that at last I could walk alongside and touch the Western Wall out of sight from the ever-pervading secular and non-Jewish architecture. THE REV. JONATHAN ORDMAN Manchester.

THANKS

Sir, - It appears that when there are letters of commendation published in your newspaper about your journalists, invariably they are directed at the editorial and feature journalists. Whilst I find all of the articles in the paper of interest and the general standard to be good, I think particular thanks should go to Arieh O'Sullivan, your new defense correspondent.

He provides an insight into the real story in Israel in an unbiased, objective and extremely informative way. As most of the media coverage in England tends to be so one-sided, I am forever recommending to my friends here to read his articles to see things "as they are." Carry on the good work! JONATHAN COHEN Bromley, Kent.

POSTSCRIPTS

RAY BARNES doesn't have your average cleaning business. Instead of cleaning grit and grime, he's wiping up blood and guts, literally, from crime scenes.

"You could have someone who would shoot themselves in the head with a revolver. That, in some cases, would not be very messy," said Barnes, owner of Crime Scene Cleanup. "But some people prefer to shoot

themselves with a shotgun, in which case you have the whole room saturated."

Barnes started the Washington business in 1994 with his wife Louise, who ran a maid service. His company is called in by people to rid their homes of the visible signs of crime and by authorities to transport bodies from crime scenes.

A THREE-METER piece of a wing flap from a TWA Boeing 727 was found on a New York street, a day after a sizzling-hot engine part from another jettisoned fell on a Queens neighborhood.

No injuries were reported in either incident.

The metal flap, 38 cm wide, left gashes in the road in South Ozone Park, a residential neigh-

borhood near Kennedy Airport. Neighbors said they had heard a loud thud in the middle of the night.

A Boeing spokeswoman said a 727 could continue flying safely even after losing a wing flap.

The day before, a piece of a Delta Airlines 727 engine fell onto a neighborhood in Flushing.

It seems to be safer in a plane than in your own living room.

هلذا من الاصل

Friday, October 11, 1996 The Jerusalem Post
The tou... to r...
Defence, Moshe... and Dav...
The writer, a former head of a section in IAF intelligence, practices corporate law in Tel Aviv.



# NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, October 11, 1996

7

## The long, tough road to restoring trust

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai tells Arieh O'Sullivan and David Makovsky about efforts to advance the peace process while maintaining security

**YOU** said that when the Palestinian Police opened fire on IDF troops there was a break in trust. Will the trust that was violated with the crisis ever be restored?

First of all, a difficult situation has arisen where Palestinians who received authority from us used it to harm IDF soldiers and citizens of the State of Israel. This is the worst thing possible. It is no doubt raising difficulties now and in the future.

I certainly describe the situation as a new situation. I have in fact described it as an emergency situation. In order to stabilize the situation and return the faith and the joint activities, we on our side need a lot of goodwill, the ability to overcome the pain, and the ability to look beyond the present obstacles to break through to a future way that advances the peace process. As you know, my policy is to continue with the peace process and advance it with the Palestinians.

These crises are difficult and cause us to strengthen our guidelines, because without clear security foundations and without the IDF and security services in every place possible, we are likely to get into very dangerous situations. We will not be able to concede on security matters which are vital for the safety of the soldiers and the citizens under our responsibility and also the peace process.

Can you elaborate on the importance of the heights in Hebron overlooking the Jewish quarter and reports that the IDF needs to control these heights?

These matters are being negotiated so I don't want to get into particulars. The main thing which guides us is that we have the authority and the military capability to react against warnings of attacks and respond to incidents so we can prevent dangers or react against the dangers and not create a situation where the lives of Israeli men, women and children are in danger and the other side is not aware that we have the capability to act when and where needed.

This is the main issue being discussed in the committees. I hope, I assume, that a formula will be found that will be able to advance the matter.

The second main area is the civilian area [in Hebron]. In H2, according to the agreement, we are already responsible for the security and the Jewish homes and all Jewish property is under Israeli responsibility. But we also want every change done by the municipal authorities in H2, which is under our security responsibility, to be carried out in coordination [with us]. We don't want a situation where a road is being paved,

or a water line taken, or say a house is suddenly built next to someone's door and it causes provocation and violence. If there isn't coordination, it could cause conflicts.

Is Israel demanding that the Palestinian Police be equipped only with pistols?

Yes. We understandably want to reduce the scale and types of weapons to reduce the dangers that could likely happen.

The Americans have pressured to ease the closure. Can you give us more details of what is going to be done?

We have no policy of closure. If there had not been incidents, then we would be in a situation today where there would hardly be a closure. I don't have a policy and the government doesn't have a policy of imposing a closure for economic hardship. The closure is for security purposes. We have started easing it and every day we will take more steps. We have lifted the internal closure around Palestinian cities, except Nablus, and this too will be lifted in the coming days.

Will the IDF soon resume the joint patrols in the West Bank?

In areas where there are still dangers and tensions, we said we won't renew them until there are discussions.

Is Israel still demanding that the Palestinian Authority prosecute those security forces who fired at IDF troops?

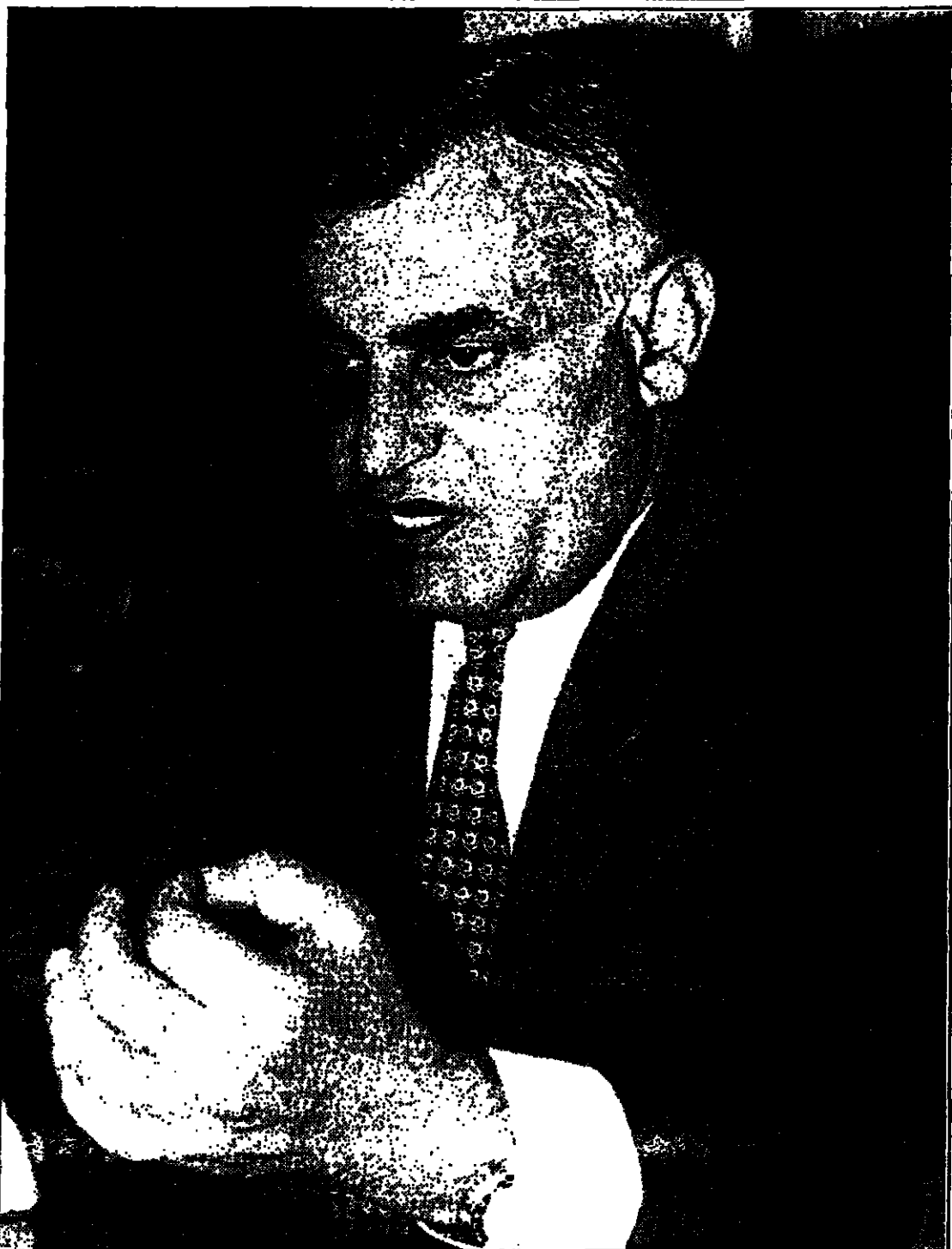
Obviously we are. Certainly we want that anyone who fired at our soldiers or acted against the norms be dealt with accordingly.

As the minister with the last word on settlements, what are the guiding lines of this government's policy regarding settlements?

We have put on [Jewish settlers] limitations for every trailer and every change because of the political sensitivity. Everything that was frozen during the Rabin-Peres government, this government has unfrozen. From that moment, from a legal point of view, they can build. Then they need permission from the controlling body to see if it meets the criteria of sewage, electricity and water and infrastructure and that it doesn't harm or deviate, or that it isn't someone else's land.

But what do you say to the Palestinians who say that the settlements are a stumbling block to peace?

I don't accept that. The Palestinians understand, and it was the policy of the previous as well as the present government



Yitzhak Mordechai: When one is in office, as I am, one can't ignore reality. You have to be a realist and know that while ideology guides you like a compass, it is reality which dictates how you behave. (Assaf Stilo/Israel Sun)

that the Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza continue to exist, and we will continue to serve its needs within the boundaries of the settlements.

Are we going to set up new settlements? No. Are we planning to confiscate Arab land? No. Perhaps if we need to pave a road to serve both Arabs and Jews we will do so, just as we do in Israel.

Are there any specific plans for expansion of existing settlements in the future?

We are building ad hoc. Every plan that comes here is examined thoroughly.

Yitzhak Rabin spoke of Iran as the No. 1 danger in the area. How do you see the dangers in the region?

There are two central dangers in the Middle East. One is extreme Islamic fundamentalism, which has no boundaries. One of its goals is Israel, but they also target the whole Western world. The second thing which endangers the world, and certainly Israel, is the ability of nations like Iran and Iraq to get nuclear weapons.

Iran is the source of Islamic fundamentalism and the great desire to make, or purchase, non-conventional weapons. Imagine what would have happened if Iraq had nuclear weapons during the Gulf war. The other danger is the arming of Arab nations, with an emphasis on surface-to-surface missiles with large ranges of over 500 kilometers so they can fire at Israel from afar like in the Gulf war.

Add to this all the weapons and troops in the area and you will

understand that Israel exists on a volcano that it is trying to stabilize all the time.

The tension with Syria seems to have abated for now. But with their new deployment around the Hermon, do you envision a scenario where the Syrians could take the mountain or other hills on the Golan Heights?

I don't think they can conquer the Hermon. But they can always find a weak spot on the Golan Heights at another site to perform a limited operation. But after they do this limited operation, they have to think now what? We will

then decide what to do. So I think that [Syrian President Hafez] Assad is a cool-headed, calculating man and if he does an operation he wants to know what dangers it involves. Therefore, I don't believe that in the short range Assad will make a grave mistake. I tell him as minister of defense we have no intentions for war and I will make all efforts to prevent war.

Together with this, don't think for one second that you can surprise us, that you won't find us ready. And if you carry out some military operation against us, (Continued on Page 8)

## Likud's new shining star

The defense minister has made the difficult transition from the military to the government look easy, Arieh O'Sullivan reports

**YITZHAK** Mordechai has turned out to be the surprise star of the new Likud-led government. Some attribute it to his moderation in a time of tumult, others say it is because he is the straight man with a pragmatic approach to the many crises he has had to face in his short time in office. But all agree that the decorated, bull-necked general has turned out better than expected and shown that a political newcomer can shine, particularly when those around him do not.

Hanan Crystal, the noted political commentator for Israel Radio and Ma'ariv, said Mordechai has succeeded in getting high marks from the public because he is "a one-eyed man in the land of the blind."

"With Mordechai you got more than you expected. People thought that he would be another David Levy who was given the post for electoral reasons. When he wasn't appointed to the top IDF slot or even [given] the job of deputy chief of staff, the public saw it to mean that he wasn't good enough so their expectations from him were low," Crystal said.

"Suddenly we see not only that he has a harmonious relationship with the top army brass, but that he is running his office as it should be done, with a working hierarchy and a functional work plan," Crystal added.

Compare this to the totally confused way that David Levy is running the Foreign Ministry and the way Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's office looks without even an office manager, and you see that Mordechai is the only one of the senior ministers who is running his office as it should be done, Crystal said.

The Iraqi-born political newcomer is a retired major-general who has had the distinction of serving in all three of the regional commands, North, South and Central. He has served in every major command from the Golan Heights to the Gaza Strip and won a Medal of Valor in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. A year-and-a-half into the intifada, with OC Southern Command responsible for the volatile Gaza Strip,

Mordechai vowed that Israel's stamina to fight would outlast the Palestinians.

"We will never become tired. We will act as if the intifada is going to last for 100 years," he told the Associated Press in a 1989 interview.

During the height of the intifada, Mordechai refrained from sending in tanks to fight the civilian revolt. Now as defense minister he has changed his tactics, mainly due to the fact that the IDF has the comfortable scenario of confronting another armed force and not a band of street hooligans.

Mordechai has maintained close relations with the army. The difference between his approach and that of Netanyahu, who has tried to neutralize any military input into decision-making, is evident in the fact that Mordechai himself said he found out about the opening of the Hasmonean Tunnel only five minutes beforehand and the first thing he did was notify the chief of staff.

Dr. Yehuda Ben-Meir, former deputy foreign minister and author of *Civil-Military Relations in Israel*, said Mordechai appears to have an understanding of the dynamics in the relationship between the army and government. "Mordechai had two strikes against him when he took over. He was fresh out of the military and subordinate to those he now commands. He was aware of this and has appeared to successfully overcome this deficit," Ben-Meir said.

"He is a great surprise. He acts with level-headedness, tries to learn topics and act cautiously and moderately," Ben-Meir added.

"But he has still not stood the test. We don't know what his strategic vision for Israel and the IDF is because it's too early. But what we have seen is that he has maintained the correct relationship with the heads of the IDF," Yehuda Ben-Meir said.

MORDECHAI'S image in the Israeli public is on the rise, mainly due to his moderate tone, but also, political observers say, because he is surrounded by ineptitude. "He hasn't made any obvious mistakes (Continued on Page 8)

10 YEARS  
RON ARAD HAS GIVEN TEN YEARS!!!  
CAN YOU GIVE ONE HOUR?



DEMONSTRATION OF PROTEST AND INVOLVEMENT OPPOSITE THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN NEW YORK CALLING FOR RON'S IMMEDIATE RELEASE. MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER, 1996 AT 11:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME

On 16 October, 1986, Ron Arad bailed out of his plane over Lebanon and was taken prisoner. In a few days' time, we will mark the tenth anniversary of his captivity, and his release is nowhere in sight. Several years ago, Israel assisted in the release of hostages in Lebanon through the release of terrorists. Ron was not released in this deal, among other things because the United Nations did not live up to its commitments. Moreover, the United Nations houses within its walls the delegation of a country enjoying equal rights, but most definitely not equal responsibilities. This country is Iran. A country which places no value on human rights and does not honor international conventions on the rights of Prisoners Of War. We are calling on the United Nations to suspend Iran from that organization until such time as it desists from supporting terrorism, thus rejoining the family of nations. We view the United Nations as a major factor in gaining Ron's release, both because of its moral obligation to Israel and because that organization, and especially Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali, are capable of bringing a successful end to this tragic affair. If you are in New York on 14 October, 1996, please join us in this demonstration calling for the release of Ron Arad.

Follow the rally on the web: <http://www.ron-arad.co.il>

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School of Languages The Open University

# 'War stories' from a Hebron road

Last Thursday, 'Post' reporter Abraham Rabinovich went to the City of the Patriarchs to interview Jewish residents. But it was his ride back to Jerusalem that he'll best remember

THERE was only a second or so to take in the scene but one detail registered clearly: the rock being held in two hands by the tall Palestinian youth to my front was as big as a basketball.

He and his friends, who were holding smaller rocks, crowded the line of my car's approach like matadors braced for the charge. The smallest, a boy of 10 or so, made a waggly gesture at me with an upturned palm that seemed to say "What in Allah's name are you doing here?"

It was a question I could well have asked myself. I had driven down to Hebron last Thursday to test the mood of Arabs and Jews on the eve of the talks that will presumably decide the city's immediate fate. The settlers appeared concerned about their possible outcome but were sustained by what they saw as the clear historical-moral justice of their case.

"Hebron is the city the Jewish people never left," said Rabbi Avinoam Horowitz. To have prevented Jewish resettlement in Hebron after the Six Day War would have been to reward the perpetrators of the 1929 massacre, he said.

"In America, would they tell Jews you can't live in Tennessee or Los Angeles because you're a Jew? Are we to be told that we cannot live in the City of the Fathers because we're Jews?"

A curfew had been imposed on Hebron's Arabs. In order to talk with some I decided to drive to an outlying neighborhood where the curfew might be less strictly enforced. I found a number of men in an area of small workshops. They spoke pessimistically about the chances of peace

being achieved as long as Binyamin Netanyahu was prime minister. One exception, though, was an impressive looking workshop owner in his 50s with a stubby white beard and a white galbaya.

"I think that at the end of the road Netanyahu will bring peace," he said. "He will want to be reelected and that means he will want to satisfy his people."

Speaking fluent Hebrew, he said he had many Jewish friends, even in Kiryat Arba, a hotbed of nationalist-religious extremism. "There are people with souls in Kiryat Arba," he said. He had many Jewish customers as well. "I think that something will come out of these troubles. This is a land of two peoples. We cannot throw the Jews into the sea and they cannot expel us. There is no alternative to peace."

THOSE UPLIFTING words were still sounding in my ears when I started down the road five minutes later towards Jerusalem. I had not been on that road for years and realized only belatedly that I was in Haihoul, a notorious trouble spot. Even as that thought was registering, a lone youth dashed out and threw a rock from a distance which struck the rear of the car, confirming that I had entered Indian country. A minute later came the ambush.

The seven or eight youths who suddenly appeared in the curve ahead of me must have known from experience that, once committed to the turn, drivers could not easily swerve. The youth raising the large rock above his head seemed about 15.

Turning my face away, I raised my left arm to shield my head



Abraham Rabinovich is back at his desk after suffering on-the-job injuries last week. (Gross Hana)

and I shut my eyes tight. A second passed and I thought I had miraculously escaped. A shattering sound and blows on my arm and head told me the age of miracles had passed. There was no windshield in front of me when I opened my eyes. My head was bleeding and my left arm was bent out of shape but it had spared my skull from the brunt of the blow. The vision in one eye was blurred. I assumed it had been damaged by the glass which covered everything. However, the car was still holding the road.

There had been no time to be frightened and there was no choice now but to continue forward. The steering wheel felt odd. When I looked down I saw that its top half had been bent downward. The bottom half, which my right hand gripped, was wobbling like the wheel of a badly made toy bicycle, yet it was controlling the car's movements.

I had forgotten the lay of the land since my army reserve days and was uncertain of the distance to the nearest Israeli settlement. In less than five minutes an army checkpoint appeared around a bend and the soldiers directed me to a base on a nearby hilltop. The reception there was wonderfully kind. It was a veteran reserve unit; many of the officers were in their 40s. They seated me on a chair

beneath a tree where the unit doctor and a medic dressed my wounds. A major asked if I wanted to speak to my family and dialed the number on his cellular phone. He told me not to worry about the car, which would be towed to a Jerusalem lot. (It was.) The blurred vision had by now disappeared; the eyelids had apparently been covered with glass shreds. An ambulance from a nearby settlement arrived to take me on a 40-minute ride to Hadassah Hospital with siren wailing, fulfillment of a childhood dream.

High drama gave way abruptly to mundane bureaucracy when I was led into the emergency room. A harried doctor told the ambulance driver to seat me in the corner where about 15 other persons were awaiting first screening.

It was close to an hour before an orthopedist removed the bandage the army doctor had placed. The flicker of alarm in her eyes reassured me that I had finally reached the right address. Treatment thenceforth was superb. Within two hours I was under general anesthesia as doctors secured a broken forearm bone with a metal clasp, reset a dislocated wrist, and closed my wound.

By chance, I was placed in a ward next to Manoocher Deghatia, an Iranian-born photographer for Agence France-

Presse who had been wounded the week before during the disturbances in Ramallah. After three hours of photographing one of the most chaotic scenes he had witnessed in 20 years of covering wars and riots he himself had been wounded badly in a leg, apparently by an Israeli bullet.

He was carried to a local hospital whose corridors were filled with hundreds of wounded. Instead of being operated on, a bandage was put on his wound and then a cast. Fortunately, colleagues got him out. A local cease-fire was arranged and a Palestinian doctor drove him across to the Israeli lines. A week later he was still in agonizing pain but his leg had been saved from certain amputation.

Neither he nor I had any grievance against those who had put us in hospital. Professional voyeurs, we had been reminded that we are not invisible after all, and that the impact of the events we report, for those actually caught up in them, outlasts the next day's edition.

A number of right-wing friends asked me during the week whether the incident had changed my left-of-center political views. Some said outright that I should now be able to recognize the vile nature of the enemy. The answer, of course, is negative. Nor would they likely join Peace Now if a Palestinian Good Samaritan saved them from a burning car.

The youth with the big rock was doing his thing the way I was doing mine and the soldiers who helped me were doing theirs. I do not assign wickedness to political opponents, even if they try to kill me.

I do assign it to fanatics, whether in my camp or the other, who are unwilling to acknowledge the same measure of human grace in the Other as they do in themselves.

In the drama we are all embarked upon there are few devils, apart from "poor devils" of whom there are many.

## TRUST

(Continued from Page 7) you'll receive a very grave, extreme and immediate reaction from us. That is what I would tell him.

**Egyptian Defense Minister Mohammed Tantawi recently said Egypt was announcing its largest military exercise to protect against an Israeli attack. How do you respond to this?**

Israel has no intentions of harming Egyptian sovereignty. We have peace with Egypt. I think the Egyptians have to put forth all efforts to refrain from verbal attacks, which don't help anyone. We want a much more personal and warm peace, but there is a wide gap between not having a warm and personal peace and having a conflict. I would be happy to visit Egypt and meet with the Egyptian leadership.

**How do you foresee the strategic relations with Turkey now that it has an Islamic-led government?**

I very much hope that Turkey and its government understand and know how to guide it so it continues to be a democratic Western state. We have very good relations with Turkey. When I feel the security situation in Turkey allows it, I would like to visit Turkey. I would also like to help the Turkish Army. We have welcomed military relations for our benefit and Turkey's benefit. I hope these ties will continue. We both have an interest in strengthening the moderate elements in Turkey.

**You are visiting the United States next week. Do you believe that Israel and the Americans see the Middle East eye to eye?**

I think that in the large picture, we see eye to eye. There are no conflicts of interests between us, on the contrary. We appreciate everything the Americans have done for us. Even among friends, however, there can be differences of opinion.

We have security interests which we cannot concede on, and on this we can have arguments. I hope we can deal with this on an acceptable level and not slide into actions or statements by either of us which would harm the special and friendly relations with America. The visit can create a personal chemistry and a common ground for strengthening the relations with the Americans.

**Can you elaborate on some of these differences of opinion?**

The process of progress with the Palestinians. There can be differences of opinion in the essence and method of negotiations with the Syrians. There are certain differ-

ences regarding the special needs of the State of Israel to answer the threats. Maybe through American glasses these problems are simple and not important. In our view they are critical. That is the argument and that is natural.

**Are there any intentions to reduce the \$1.8 billion in annual US aid?**

Against the threats facing us today, I wish we could increase it because the need is growing, the weapons are more sophisticated and much more expensive.

**What kind of changes do you plan to implement in the IDF and Defense Ministry as we move toward the peace era?**

We are only four months in the government. First of all I have to learn the system. Then there were the cuts to the defense budget. Later there were the possibilities of problems with the Syrians and Lebanese. Then the crisis with the Iraqis and the crisis with the Palestinians. The 1997 work plan is just before us, and there are all the running items. I go from meeting to meeting and hardly get a wink at night. I certainly plan after the 1997 program is set out to sit and think what the future threats against Israel are and how we are going to build our security capabilities against these.

**Are you satisfied with the running of the government, as a body?**

This is a government which is learning. Every one naturally behaves differently. I don't give out grades. I think this government has potential. It has a policy and, I think, capabilities. Planning, coordination and carrying out are a function of time. I presume that time will make a difference, and work concepts and directions of thoughts will be made appropriate to the reality and the needs.

I say all the time to ideologists that it is your duty to present the ideology you believe in when you are in the opposition, when you are in an election campaign, or when you don't take responsibility. But when one is in office, as I am, as the defense minister, one can't ignore reality. You are obligated to the reality as it is now and you have to be a realist and know that while ideology guides you like a compass, it is reality which dictates how you behave.

Sometimes you move left, sometimes right, but you return to the path. If you are unable to cope with reality, you will be knocking your head against the wall.

## LIKUD

(Continued from Page 7) He has not distanced the IDF commanders as Netanyahu has purposefully done," Crystal said.

Crystal also attributed the public appreciation of Mordechai to the media who, once they saw he was a reasonable man with moderate opinions who was willing to take responsible decisions, began to relate to him as such.

Mordechai is also protected from the media by his press adviser, Avi Benyahu, who sheltered the minister for his first months in the job and at times used his enormous gifts to physically distance reporters from the defense minister. Mordechai was eased into the public's eye and it is only recently that he has started giving interviews.

Mordechai owes his position to Netanyahu and is considered faithful to him. Despite his strong showing in the primaries, his strength in the Likud Party is uncertain since he does not have his own political camp. For now he is not considered a threat to Netanyahu. Nevertheless, his visit to the United States next week follows the traditional American tactic of signaling out the "normal ones" and courting them, Crystal said.

His command of English is not fluent, but he gets by. He studied infantry tactics in Cambridge, England, and holds degrees in history and Jewish studies. His attempt at law school last year was curtailed when he ran in the Likud primaries and surprised everyone by being elected to the No. 2 slot behind Netanyahu.

"He doesn't pretend to understand the American mentality. He comes without pretenses, speaks his halting English and doesn't try to pass himself off as anything but a simple sabra soldier. And they are enchanted by his magic," said Brig-Gen. Rafi Noy, who served with him as the head of his office in the Northern and Central commands.

As for vision, Mordechai is said to be a cautious man who weighs his steps carefully and prefers slow change to quick leaps. "He is not a revolutionary," said Noy. "Itzik is a man with a lot of experience. He not only held all the field commands in the IDF, but he also served on all of the fronts. He knows all of the problems and the people on our side and the other side," Noy said.

"He has a lot of patience and stamina and cool-headedness. He prefers to listen to another opinion before making a decision. Depending on the situation, he decides who he wants to hear, but he has a close circle of people that he consults with," said Noy, who said he has spent "thousands of hours" with Mordechai.

"He is not some kind of guy with great vision. He doesn't believe in revolutions and he doesn't believe in setting goals that are too difficult to reach. He is mainly a guy who looks back and sees from where he came and where he wants to go. He is not a man of leaps. He goes slowly, doesn't take uncalculated risks and very much tries to refrain from making mistakes," Noy said.

Fifty-one of his soldiers were killed and another 100 wounded as his battalion was decimated at the Chinese Farm in Egypt during the 1973 war. It is a scar that still causes him pain. At the recent memorial service for fallen paratroopers, Mordechai was physically moved and hugged some of the families of soldiers who fell under his command.

Mordechai takes every casualty as if it were his own son. As OC Northern Command, Noy said, he would lock himself away for hours after a soldier was killed. "He would sit for hours without uttering a word," Noy said.

Noy commented that Mordechai is not a flamboyant character, not interested in wealth. "But he is saddened that he has had to curtail his friendships with many of his friends because of the security" around him as minister of defense, Noy said.

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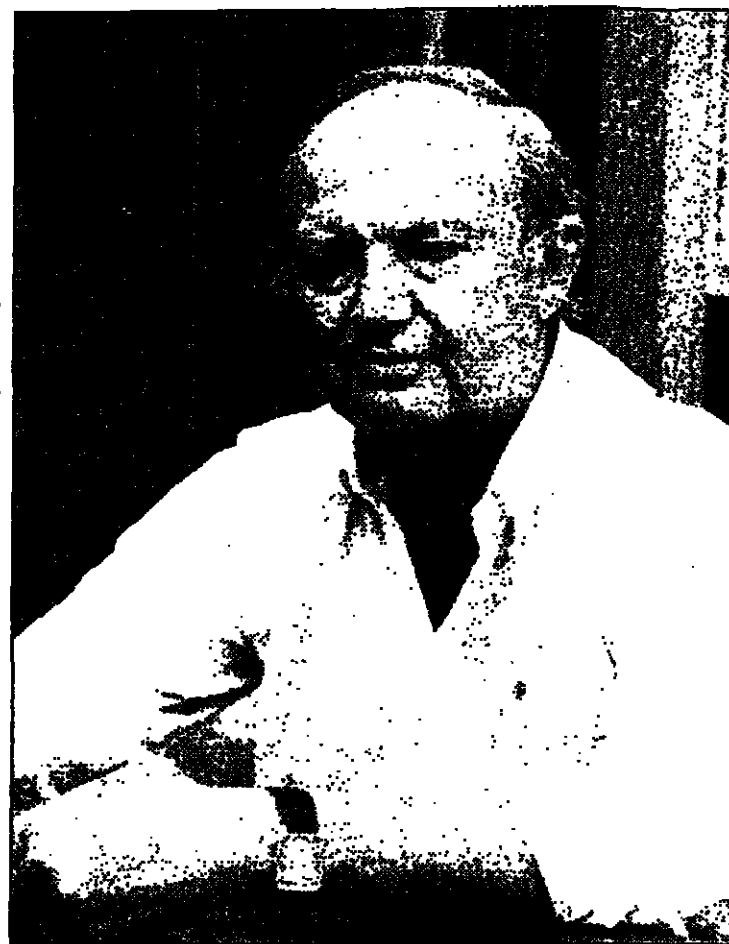
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מלוא מן אלול



# Law to lore – a legal legend in the capital

There's no middle ground when it comes to people's views of Eitan Geva, the attorney who for three decades has spearheaded the purchase of Arab properties in Jerusalem by Jewish groups, **Bill Hutman reports**



Eitan Geva: Few people realize that a lot of my clients are Arabs. They know they can trust me. (Brian Hendler)

I'm always looked upon by the public as 'the lawyer of the settlers.' But not all my work involves property purchases in eastern Jerusalem. That's only one part of what I am involved in," said Geva, in his small center-city office. The 59-year-old Geva, who as a rule doesn't speak to the press, complained in a rare series of interviews with *The Jerusalem Post* of having an image problem. The physical layout of the office lends to the aura of mystery surrounding the attorney, who held senior government and military

posts before setting up a law office in Jerusalem in the early 1970s. The second-floor office is dark, and sparsely decorated. A single, outdated rotary phone sits atop his desk. On the back wall, there is a small picture of the City of David section of Silwan, the Arab neighborhood just outside the Old City which he is helping settlers claim.

The office is a far cry from what might be expected from a man who is reportedly a multi-millionaire, has a home in the exclusive Yemin Moshe neighborhood, and has wide-ranging connections in the government, security establishment, and Jewish communities worldwide.

Geva, lighting up a cigar, continues with his explanation of how he is misunderstood. "Few people realize that a lot of my clients are Arabs. They know they can trust me... I must admit that recently Arabs have been shying away from me, but I still represent many of them."

men who are claiming a 17-dunam tract on the Mount of Olives, that is part of the Hussein Wakf," he says. Geva said that he was hired by the trustees of the family Wakf, but that Faisal Hussein gave his approval for the attorney to be used by the family.

Geva also said he has represented the Wakf administration at Al-Aksa, in a legal battle it had over a tract of land in Bethlehem. In this case, it was another Palestinian claimant, from Hebron, that he faced in court, and a compromise was reached between the sides.

Palestinians have apparently learned from the settlers in eastern Jerusalem that Geva's knowledge of Israel's complicated property laws, his command of Arabic, and perhaps most importantly his connections, are invaluable to have on their side.

"He works like a gangster," said one well-known Jerusalemite, who has followed Geva's work closely, and spoke on condition of anonymity. "There's no other way to describe the way he operates. He's got people backing him with a lot of money, and political connections, he knows how to wheel and deal," he said.

Geva's reputation took its heaviest beating when the Klugman Report of 1993 criticized the Likud government for its funneling of money to eastern Jerusalem settlement group and raised questions concerning the legal basis on which those groups claimed Jewish rights to Arab countries.

Geva strongly denies ever being involved in illegal land purchases. His bottom line, not surprisingly given his legal training, is that despite all the allegations against him, most of the deals he has put together have held up in court.

"On a purely professional level, there is no question that he is an excellent lawyer," said Danny Seidman, attorney for the Peace Now-affiliated Ir Shalem group, that opposes settlers' efforts to purchase properties in Arab neighborhoods of eastern Jerusalem.

have purchased in eastern Jerusalem, and that police were bracing for clashes with Palestinian residents when they tried to enter the homes. Geva said Armit is way off base. The right-wing politicians and settlement activists who speak of large numbers of buildings and land being purchased in eastern Jerusalem are also exaggerating, he said.

"We're only talking about a few buildings and lots each year," Geva said. He added that "settler" is a misnomer when referring to the Jews who purchase Arab property, because in many cases the deals are being made by businessmen whose interest is money, not ideology.

Geva placed himself somewhere between the two extremes. "I don't let my beliefs get in the way of my work as an attorney," he said. Geva has reportedly himself purchased Arab properties in eastern Jerusalem for business reasons, although he denied this. Ideology, however, is not far off.

"The purchase of properties in eastern Jerusalem neighborhoods puts important facts on the ground, that will strengthen Israel's hold on the city against the Palestinian demands it be made their capital," according to Geva. "I don't agree with the argument that Jews moving into the Moslem Quarter, or any other Arab neighborhood, creates friction. That simply is not the case," he maintained.

Geva, and others involved in purchasing property in eastern Jerusalem, see themselves as entering an area that Israeli governments, both left- and right-wing, cannot themselves go, because they are prevented by how the world would perceive such a move.

Geva said neither the election of Likud MK Ehud Olmert as Jerusalem Mayor two years ago, or Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu as premier in May, had the positive effect widely expected on the efforts to purchase Arab properties in eastern Jerusalem. "Politicians will always be politicians, and talk a lot about something, when they are really doing nothing about it," Geva said. "It's the people who work quietly that really get things done."

Jerusalem police chief Arye Armit said recently that there has been a sharp increase in the number of homes settlement groups Geva coming right after them, defending what they have done. Geva is most well known for being the legal counselor of the Ateret Cohanim settlement group, which operates primarily in the Moslem Quarter, and of Elad, the settlement group that is trying to buy houses in the City of David section of Silwan. He also represents Irving Maskovitz, the patron of the eastern Jerusalem settlement movement. For all these Jewish groups and individuals, he has become known as the master of the secret and complicated negotiations on Arab property sales in eastern Jerusalem.

But Seidman said the only reason that Geva and other Jewish operators in eastern Jerusalem have come out clean so far, is that the legal authorities have refrained from looking closely at their activity. If the authorities really looked, they would find widespread wrongdoing, he claimed. "I've never met Eitan Geva, but I don't think you need to have seen him, in order to see what he does," said Khalil Toufajki, who is the chief Palestinian expert of the settlement movement at Orient House. For Toufajki, who describes the Palestinians who sold to Jews as "collaborators," and many others – Palestinian and Israeli alike, Geva is "the settlers' adviser.... Whenever the settlers try to take Arab homes, you see

## PA makes real estate acquisition difficult in eastern Jerusalem

It is becoming tougher for Jewish investors and groups to purchase property in eastern Jerusalem for one simple reason – the Palestinian Authority, according to Eitan Geva.

Palestinians have always been fearful about being caught by their fellow Palestinians selling land to Jews, he says. But today, with the threat of reprisal not in Tunis or Amman, but on their doorsteps, Palestinian landowners are particularly apt to shy away from a deal, explains Geva.

Just how real is the threat by the PA against Palestinians who sell land to Jews? Geva says that only last month PA security agents kidnapped a Palestinian man hired by a Jewish client of his to guard a building the client purchased, near the American Consulate in eastern Jerusalem.

The case made headlines last month, when police had to be called in to break up a struggle between a Palestinian family who claimed ownership to the home, and other Jewish guards, subsequently hired by the client.

The case is now in court, and last week Geva presented an affidavit detailing the alleged kidnapping. "Some 15 men... who identified themselves as officers in the PA security forces entered the building and confronted the guard, Omar Shludi," the affidavit states.

"They told Shludi that they knew [the property] was sold to Jews, and demanded he turn the key over to them, warning him that if he didn't he would be branded as collaborating with someone who sold to Jews." "In order to put even more pressure on the guard, they reminded him that his family lived in an area under the control of the PA, and that he should

understand the hint." Shludi was allegedly taken to Ramallah, and held until he gave up the keys and promised to leave the job.

Geva recalls that in the 1970s the Jordanian government passed a law mandating the death penalty to anyone who sold property to Jews, and that the move slowed sales to Jewish investors and groups in eastern Jerusalem. However, he is quick to add, the Jordanians may have had sympathizers in eastern Jerusalem, but still Amman had no real way of getting at Palestinian land-owners who broke the ban.

That changed three years ago when the PA moved into Gaza and Jericho. Despite the PA threat, however, Palestinians continue to sell property to Jews in eastern Jerusalem, according to Geva. Most that do must flee the country, however – Mujib Aladin Alalameh, who sold the property to Irving Maskovitz, a leading patron of the eastern Jerusalem settlement movement, was lucky enough to hold a Swedish passport, so he could take his money, and literally run.

Jewish groups and investors have also not been completely dissuaded by the PA's threats. According to Geva, the settlement group Ateret Cohanim continues to make purchases of homes in the Old City, and Elad in the City of David section of Silwan.

Private Jewish investors, both from here and abroad, today primarily look in areas where Palestinians continue to hold private tracts of land adjoining Jewish neighborhoods, such as near Gilo, between Beit Safafa and Givat Hamatos, around Har Homa, and on Mount Scopus, according to Geva.

"As long as there continue to be sellers," says Geva, "there will also be buyers."

## Schools make minority issue central to Rabin's memorial services

THE program really started last year after Rabin's murder," said Nehama Bar-Kochva, principal of Ramat Aviv Gimel Junior High School. "We learned about Rabin's life and his unique character as a military leader on one hand, and a signer of peace ready to take chances in order to avoid bloodshed on the other... Last year we stressed the topic of violence, specifically verbal violence. So we already have a base built for remembering."

After the assassination, schools put special emphasis on incorporating the issues of democracy, coexistence and tolerance into their curriculum, she said.

In one instance students from the Religious Experimental High School for Girls in Jerusalem (Pelech) and Gonen High School have been meeting over the past year to discuss issues relevant to secular-religious relations and to get to know one another as individuals.

Last year we focused on democracy and Halacha," said Shira Breuer, principal of Pelech. "This year we want to focus on the issue of minorities and majorities. Our dialogue with the Gonen school will continue once a week this year."

### Educators have begun to prepare for October 24, the first anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's death, but, they say, one day is not enough, Judith Sudilovsky writes.

respect for secular law and elected leaders, said director Matiyahu Dagan.

"Last year our schools spent time discussing the fact [that Yigal Amir was educated in religious schools] and we instituted programs in democracy," he said. "But to say that the murder was a result of religious education is mistaken. We of course consider him to be an extremist, and to our way of thinking, people who can do such things are not religious."

The only thing the ministry has asked, Shoukron said, is that schools dedicate the day of the yearzeit to Rabin's memory.

Some schools, such as Ramat Aviv Gimel Junior High School and Pelech in Jerusalem will include parents in their programs. Parental participation is important so students can discuss the issues surrounding Rabin's assassination at home too, said Bar-Kochva.

All schools will hold some sort of memorial service but other than that, plans for the day vary from participating in a marathon in honor of Rabin in Tel Aviv, to having panel discussions and reading psalms and learning tracts of Mishna at religious schools. But, the main message they want to pass on to the students is a rejection of extremism and violence, and a respect for the democratic process, said school directors.

"There is a difference between indoctrination and education," said Dr. Gideon Stachel, principal of Beit Hahinuch High School in Jerusalem. "With indoctrination you tell them to do things a certain way, but a school has to present students with a world view and convince them that is the [right] way without compulsion."

Stachel, who will be out of the country on the day of the yearzeit, has prepared a letter for students and for teachers about the significance of Rabin's assassination. There will be a "Unity Corner" set aside in the school building where students, and also teachers, will be able to meet and talk about their feelings about the assassination, said Stachel.

thing very relevant to them as individuals, said Haifa Heb Elementary School principal Riad Egbaria.

"The Arab minority is always afraid that they will not be treated with equality so the subject of equality and respect for the other is very real for Arab children," said Egbaria.

"It is a feeling you won't find among Jewish children. Arab children understand what it means to be in a minority."

At Haifa Heb the memorial program will be adapted for the young children and will include

appropriate discussions. They will talk about Rabin's contribution to peace, to Israeli society in general and to the Arab community in particular.

Younger children will be given the chance to do artwork based on their memories of the day Rabin was assassinated while older children will be encouraged to write about their feelings and fears following the murder.

"We want them to see that even if there is only one person holding a certain idea that we have to listen to him and understand his point of view," said Egbaria.

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# And immunity for all...

### With more MKs than ever before facing criminal charges, the question of parliamentary privilege will come to the fore this Knesset, Liat Collins writes

**B**RITISH prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu once wrote: "I was told that the Privileged and the People formed Two Nations." But if some MKs have their way, the privileges of their peers will become more restricted.

MK Eli Goldschmidt (Labor), former chairman of the Knesset House Knesset Committee, recently submitted a bill which would significantly cut back the immunity MKs enjoy and entirely abolish it for incidents not directly related to their parliamentary work. Although the bill is not related to any specific case, it will come up for discussion at the same time as an unprecedented number of MKs face criminal charges.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is the latest to join this list no one wants to appear on. The first meeting of the Knesset House Committee this week dealt with a request by Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair to lift Olmert's immunity to face charges of corruption during the Likud's 1988 campaign. Olmert agreed to have his immunity lifted earlier this week.

"The public is beginning to feel the Knesset has become a sanctuary for criminals," Goldschmidt says. "If an MK violates a law in a man-

ner completely unrelated to his parliamentary work there is no reason why the Knesset House Committee should have to discuss lifting his immunity."

The ministerial committee for legislation has approved Goldschmidt's bill and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) has also suggested a reform of the issue of parliamentary privilege but other MKs - across the political spectrum - have raised fears that it would open MKs up to false charges and vendettas.

"IN MY opinion, procedural privilege can no longer be justified," says Goldschmidt. "We've already proved over the years that the attorney general has not worked from inappropriate considerations when pressing charges and anyway the High Court could protect an MK who believes his case is being unjustly handled."

"Practically speaking, since an MK can ask for his own immunity to be revoked and since the plenum vote is open, the whole procedure today is a facade. It's like a ceremony at the end of which the immunity is automatically lifted. It also harms MKs who are, in effect, put on trial twice; once by Knesset House Committee and once by

courts," Goldschmidt says.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, on the other hand, says he will not support Goldschmidt's bill and notes that similar suggestions have periodically been raised without passing.

Summing up his opposition to the bill, Sarid states simply: "We know where it will start but we don't know where it will end. After all, what is [parliamentary] immunity intended for? For those cases when the regime wants to get at an MK for political reasons and set him up. The Knesset can prevent such a thing. In all the discussions, the opposition and coalition have always agreed that immunity should not be touched," he says.

Goldschmidt discounts the view that the law of privilege acts as a barrier against political harassment. "If there is a threat that the government will get back at an MK who bothers it, then why don't journalists, mayors and other public figures likely to be in the same situation enjoy this type of immunity?" he asks. "If we're a democracy, the threat doesn't exist because of the possibility of appealing to the High Court and if - heaven forbid - we were to stop being a democracy, then the immunity wouldn't help anyway," Goldschmidt says.



objects to the proposed changes.

"The immunity law is like handrails or a fence. You can survive without it but it's better that it's there. What Goldschmidt is suggesting would mean the end of immunity altogether. There can be no compromise because, in effect, such laws [restricting immunity] can only detract from the Knesset's status and stop its being involved in any case. The attorney general will go directly to the courts and the Knesset itself will be left out of the picture," says Eitan.

"Who will decide whether a case is related to an MK's work or not? Will the courts be asked to decide? If an MK is charged with libel, for example, who will decide whether it's related to his work as a parliamentarian or his personal promotion? Only the Knesset can decide. Goldschmidt's bill would mean that the decision of immunity would rest entirely in the hands of the attorney general. All we need right now is for MKs threatened by legal suits and charges - sometimes justifiably, sometimes not - to feel that they don't have even the backup of a fair discussion in the Knesset," he says.

Eitan notes that when an MK agrees and asks for his immunity to be revoked it is done quickly. "By cooperating with the attorney general and Rafal [Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan], I got Rafal's immunity revoked in two minutes without either being present," he says.

Eitan says the law Goldschmidt proposes is too simplistic but he agrees with him that MKs should not be privileged when it comes to traffic violations. He notes that even for traffic offenses an MK can ask to use his immunity. "There are MKs who secretly ask the Knesset

Speaker to apply immunity, without the public being aware, and the police then decide not to get involved with them and cancel the reports. And there are other MKs who accept punishment as they should and do preventive driving courses or stand trial and everything. In the case of traffic violations I don't believe there should be any discrimination. Justice should be identical for all."

**SPEAKER Dan Tichon (Likud)** admits he is "very concerned" about the number of MKs facing criminal charges and the Knesset's image, but although he talks of the need for a reform he dismisses Goldschmidt's bill as populist and superficial.

One of Tichon's first acts as

Speaker was to establish a public committee on the issue. It is chaired by former Justice Minister Moshe Nissim who this year resigned after years as a Likud MK. "It's a matter of increasing concern," Tichon says. "I received four requests for immunity to be lifted in my first four weeks as Speaker. And a large number of MKs can expect to undergo this procedure in the future."

He wants a thorough investigation into all aspects of the issue before preparing legislation which would be more comprehensive than Goldschmidt's bill.

"Several clauses in current law are no longer relevant and there are new issues to discuss such as the ramifications of the computer age and modern means of communication," Tichon says. There are other

privilege-related questions such as physical access for MKs, he notes. "Does the IDF have to open every base and every checkpoint to MKs, for example?"

"It is a very complex law. I'm not in favor of private members' bill on the subject. It needs greater examination by an extra-parliamentary body. Several bills amending the Knesset House Rules in the past four years were used for political purposes. I don't want a sort of revision which afterwards one side or the other will say came from political and not pertinent considerations," says Tichon. "I don't think MKs are thieves or cheats and I don't believe the Knesset is an asylum from the law, but revision of the immunity law must be handled with care."

## Out of the House and into the courtroom?

**A**S the Knesset returns to work, an unprecedented number of MKs are facing charges that could take them out of the House and into the courtroom.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is just the latest on a list which includes: MK Meir Sheerit (Likud) and MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) both facing charges of fraud, forgery and breach of trust; Shas leader Aryeh Deri, whose three-year trial for corruption continues; Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) charged with using classified military personal information against a political foe.

MK Raphael Pinhasi is charged with fraud and forgery relating to the Shas campaign of 1988-1989. MK Eli Ben-Menachem (Labor) was cleared of charges of attacking Likud activists in the 1992 elections but still face a possible charge for attacking a public official.

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) was castigated by the Knesset Ethics Committee for misusing his position as an MK to gain funds for the Camera Obscura Photography School as the chairman of the school's friends' committee. It is not clear whether charges will be dropped entirely. MK Sallah Tarif (Labor) faces charges of illegal hunting.

Citing the Statute of Limitations, the attorney general this week decided to drop charges against MK Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) for distributing money to organizations headed by relatives and political friends. But Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon warns: "Unfortunately, the list seems set to grow longer." **L.C.**

IT IS one of the ironies of the current Knesset that an MK whose case sparked off much of the discussion on immunity and at least one amendment is actually the chairman of the very committee which deals with the subject, the Knesset House Committee. MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) was the trigger for the amendment on open votes. In 1993, the attorney general asked his immunity be lifted to face charges of fraud and falsifying documents.

The Knesset House Committee and plenum agreed but following a High Court petition by Pinhasi, a revote was ordered on the grounds that the original plenum vote had not met the rules of due process. In the revote, which was not open, the plenum decided against lifting his immunity. This year the attorney general again asked that Pinhasi's immunity be lifted and again Pinhasi turned to the court, which has not yet ruled on the case.

Meantime, he agreed to be replaced by Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan for such discussions on immunity in the Knesset House Committee. Eitan, however, also

## Two types of immunity

**T**HE Law of Parliamentary Privilege, passed in the early 1950s, provides for two types of immunity: substantive immunity for acts directly related to an MK's work, which cannot be lifted, and procedural immunity, which can be revoked to allow MKs to stand trial for offenses unconnected to their parliamentary function.

The two most obvious recent examples of the two categories - is the immunity Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu enjoyed when he quoted a classified IDF document in the plenum as leader of the opposition and the procedural immunity lifted to enable MK Salah Tarif to stand trial for illegal hunting.

Although MKs enjoy immunity for offenses committed before they were elected - hence MK Benny Elon (Moledei) was not tried for his part in a Zo Artzenu demonstration - it applies only as long as the MK sits in the Knesset.

Since the 1950s many clauses have been whittled away. In the 1980s traffic offenses were taken out of the procedural immunity category after the Knesset did not lift the immunity of five MKs facing charges of driving violations.

Another amendment 18 months ago removed immunity for offenses for which the penalty is only a fine, as long as the incident is not directly related to the MK's work.

Two major amendments were the decision to hold open votes on lifting immunity and a clause enabling MKs to ask for their immunity to be lifted and spared the televised plenum debate on the issue.

Although there are many different views on whether the law needs revising, most MKs and legal experts agree that the law of privilege is wider for Israeli MKs than their counterparts in the western world. **L.C.**

# Who's Who of American Jewish community backs Bill

### US President Bill Clinton hopes for at least as much Jewish support as he received last election, Marilyn Henry reports from New York

**A**MERICAN Jews may have been split between Labor and Likud, but the leadership is signing up for Bill Clinton.

One month before the American presidential election, the Clinton/Gore reelection campaign announced its "Jewish Leadership Council," which was kicked off in

The council includes David Hermelin and Susan Weikers-Volchok, the key lay leaders of Israel Bonds; Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress; Joel Tauber and Marvin Lender, major fundraisers for the United Jewish Appeal; Tommy Baer, head of B'nai B'rith; and five former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations: Julius

forget that we are Jews."

The Jewish council is not the only special-interest group to sign up for the Clinton campaign. There also are councils representing the hyphenated Americans who back the president: Ukrainian-Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Irish-Americans. Then there are the Gays and Lesbians for Clinton and the Environmentalists for Clinton, and the unnamed Hollywood Crowd for Clinton.

The Jewish group is one of the largest, according to a campaign staffer, adding that "these groups are put together to show support." But it's not clear how the council members are supposed to do that.

In smaller communities, they may be asked to help get out the Jewish vote on Election Day. But in New York, for example, there's already a political machine in operation to take care of that, and Jews traditionally go to the polls in high numbers anyway. Money is another way to show support, but virtually all of those contacted by *The Jerusalem Post* said they had not yet been asked to give.

There's not much else to do except publicize the endorsement - which, as it happens, was made during the summit between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat in Washington. The American Jews, it seemed,

were ready to line up for Clinton regardless of whether the president intended to pressure Netanyahu behind closed White House doors. Their attitudes toward Clinton also appeared to be undiminished by his interference - on the losing side - in the Israeli election.

The American Jews also seemed uninterested in publicly pushing for some items that usually are seen as high on the Jewish agenda, including moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem or for freedom for Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence of charges related to spying for Israel.

Many of those contacted by the *Post* said they were not fazed by the prospect of having to choose between supporting Clinton or Netanyahu if relations become strained, saying they can live with disagreements between a prime minister and a president, so long as they are convinced the president supports Israel.

Speaking off the record, most of those contacted by the *Post* said they lent their names to the council to ensure they have the president's ear for damage control in the event US-Israeli relations sour.

"This is about getting access," said one Clinton supporter.

That also figures into Jewish support for Dole. "We have always had our feet planted in both [Democratic and Republican] camps, and it helps Israel," he said.

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לקחא מן אלאל



# From Adam or apes?

# Dry Bones

IS there anywhere in the Bible, the most fought-over book in the history of mankind, another passage that has inspired quite as much argument as the account of God's creating the world in this week's Torah reading, with which we begin again the annual cycle of the Pentateuch?

For over a century now, since the time of Darwin, the Creationists and the Evolutionists have been at it — and while until recently this seemed strictly a war between modern science and religious fundamentalism, one in which the more the fundamentalists huffed and puffed the more the scientists merely laughed at them, cracks are now beginning to appear in the scientific position itself.

Not that biology is about to return to Genesis. But at least a few of its practitioners are distinctly toying with the idea that, unless you allow for an inexplicable element of design in the development of life on earth, which is precisely what classical Darwinism refuses to do, evolution may be impossible to account for. And while those holding such a view may not comprise a large group, what is bothering them is no longer beyond the fringe of respectable scientific discussion.

Some of their questions are old ones that, rather than go away with time as scientific problems generally do with the gradual accumulation of evidence in support of this or that theory, have stubbornly remained; others are new, occasioned by recent advances in genetics and computer modeling.

Why, if, according to Darwinian theory, species gradu-

## AGAINST THE GRAIN HILLEL HALKIN

ally evolve into other species by means of small, random, incremental mutations that natural selection preserves or rejects, does the fossil record often show so few intermediate stages between one species and the next?

Why, if genetic mutations occur at a more or less steady rate, have there been immensely long periods with great stability among living forms and other, shorter periods with enormous change?

And if we accept the Darwinian explanation that complex organisms — the eye, for example — have been slowly and sometimes independently formed in different zoological phyla because each of the many steps necessary for their formation was beneficial to the animal in question, what are we to make of the recent discovery by a Swiss research team that the exact same genetic unit of DNA controls total eye development in fruit flies, human beings and cephalopods, and has been on earth for half-a-billion years?

And how incredible is it, now that we know how incredibly complicated an elementary chain of functioning DNA is (it has been estimated that, if each of the nucleotide bases in each of the 46 human chromosomes were written down as a single letter, every chromosome would fill 100 large dictionaries), to believe that the basic building blocks of life just happened to bump into each other and stay attached by sheer, natural selection-aided chance?

THERE ARE reasonable answers

to such questions; there are reasonable objections to some of the answers. Yet as long as the debate remains a scientific one, it will not offer the Creationists much comfort.

Still, for all that has been written about the irreparable blow delivered to human self-importance by Darwin's proclamation that we are descended not from Adam but from apes, it is a bit difficult a hundred years later to see what the indignation was all about.

Being told, as we are by the Bible, that our first ancestor was created from a lump of dirt is not the supreme compliment either; and if the insult consisted of the assertion that we were created by no one at all but were simply stumbled upon by a Nature that wasn't even looking for us, this was more the conclusion of Darwin's audience than implicit in anything he wrote.

On the face of it, after all, it would seem to take as much divine ingenuity to make a human being out of an ape, tripling the latter's brain size while retaining 99% of its protein structure in a blink of geological time, as out of a handful of clay, which any sculptor can model into a human body.

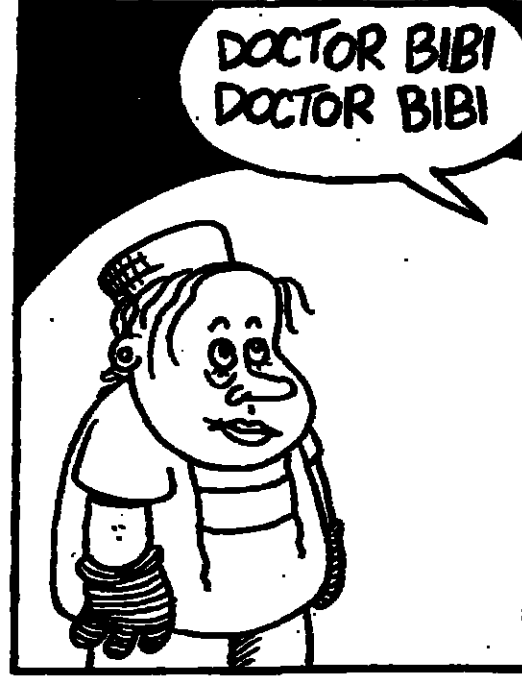
The sculptor, it is true, cannot make clay breathe or reproduce itself, nor do we have a scientific hypothesis explaining how this might be done; and to those who will settle for nothing less, a God who succeeded in arriving at humanity by first laboriously creating life in the chemical laboratory of a still semi-molten planet and then painstakingly

cultivating plants and breeding animals for hundreds of millions of years, may hardly be worth believing in.

Such people remind one of the shipwrecked man in the joke who prays for a miracle to save him. Soon after a log floats by; he goes on praying and watches it drift toward a distant ship; and when, having drowned and arrived in heaven, he bemoans being left in the lurch, an exasperated Deity replies, "For goodness' sake, I was doing the best I could."

Evolution may be the same, and it would be churlish to complain that it is too slow or too comprehensible — as churlish as to dismiss an immensely talented magician because we have managed to understand how he does his tricks, although we could not possibly duplicate or have invented them.

In this sense, as fascinating as the debate may be, it makes little difference to the person of religious sensibility whether evolution can or cannot be modeled mathematically without the help of some mysterious "Factor X." The greater mystery, anyway, will always be how much we do understand — in spite of which, as Spinoza put it more succinctly than I have, "God cannot properly be called [only] the remote cause of individual things unless for the sake of distinguishing them from the things which He has immediately produced, or rather which follow from His absolute nature. For by a 'remote cause' we understand that which is in no way joined to its effect. But all things which are, are in God, and so depend upon Him that without Him they can neither be nor be conceived."



# What is a 'secularist'?

IN American public schools, religious teaching and the use of the premises for any purpose that smacks of "religion" is forbidden.

"So when do you teach religion and values?" a school principal was asked. He replied: "All day. We teach it with arithmetic: accuracy. We teach it in language: learning to say what we mean. We teach it in history: humanity. We teach it in geography: breadth of mind. We teach it in handicraft: thoroughness. We teach it in astronomy: reverence. We teach it in the playground: fair play. We teach it by kindness to animals, by courtesy to workers, by good manners to one another, and by helpfulness in all things."

I can't think of a more exquisite "secular" summary of the words of Prophet Isaiah 58, in the Haftara read in the Yom Kippur morning service. Isaiah quotes "religious" people who complain to God: "How is it that we fasted, but You paid no attention?"

Isaiah replies in God's name: "You fasted, but you went right on quarreling and sniping viciously." God does not desire mere self-deprivation. The kind of "fasting" He desires is "to ... share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your home; to provide clothing to the naked..."

The term "secularism" was coined in 1846 by George Jacob Holyoake. It designates the doctrine that ethics should be based on "natural morality" — i.e. arrived at by autonomous Man rather than handed down in a Revelation by a supernatural being — and concerned solely with the well-being of mankind in the present life, what Jewish tradition refers to as *Olam Hazeh* the This-World.

Avowed secularists, however, "may still be deeply religious in their outlook on the universe, regarding with reverent awe both the processes of nature and the functioning of society. Even without the idea of divine sanction and law they hold to their moral ideals with deep conviction.... Thus they are ethical without being religious, or perhaps religious without having an explicit faith in

## A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

God." Just as some religionists are not exemplars of the piety they profess.

(See *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, 14th edition, and *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Vol. 2, "Atheism.")

The Hebrew counterpart of secularism/ist, *hiloni*, makes its first appearance even later than Holyoake's coinage, in modern Hebrew literature. It stems from the biblical and mishnaic word *hol*, meaning profane as opposed to holy (Leviticus 10:10); mundane, weekday, as opposed to Shabbat and other holy days (*Mishna Pessahim* 5:8, *Shabbat* 118a).

But it appears several times in several Aramaic forms in several connotations in the Midrash and in the Targum translations of the Tanach. It connotes, variously, a common Israelite as distinguished from a *kohen*; a Jew as distinguished from a non-Jew; and "alien" lands as distinguished from Eretz Yisrael (*Vayikra Rabbah* 24:7; *Exodus* 29:33; *Isaiah* 24:2; *Psalms* 137:4; *Proverbs* 2:16).

*Hol* stems from the root *halla*, meaning desecrate (Leviticus 19:8); breach (a vow or pact; Numbers 30:3 and *Psalms* 89:35); redeem (sanctified fruit for cash; Deuteronomy 20:6 and *Yerushalmi Demai* 1:24:3); exchange something sacred for something ordinary (*Bava Metzia* 54a).

ON THE edge of the Judean Wilderness 12 kilometers northeast of Jerusalem sits the Jewish village of Kfar Adumim. It was founded 18 years ago by a group of national-religious (*dati-leumi*) and, by their own definition, *hiloni* Israelis, designed as a model of religious-secular coexistence.

The news media made a great fuss over this "experiment" in *dati-hiloni* coexistence in a closed community (people wishing to live there must be approved by an admissions committee).

One of Kfar Adumim's media stars at the

time was its young rabbi Gavriel Goldman. Asked the usual question about *dati-hiloni* relations, he replied: "Here we don't speak of *dati'im* and *hilonim*; here we speak of *shomerai mitzvot* (those who observe Torah precepts) and *shomerai yoter mitzvot* (those who observe more precepts)." Goldman was, of course, putting the broadest construction on the concept *shomerai mitzvot*: he was suggesting that even those who do not observe the ritual precepts — kashrut, Shabbat, praying with tefillin every weekday morning, etc. — but act along the ethical/moral/social lines indicated by Isaiah, Micah and the talmudic Sages, are precept-observers, even if they reject the notion that they are "observing" *mitzvot* commanded by a Supreme Being.

THE SAGES of the Talmud and Midrash tell us many times in various ways that ritual *mitzvot* are not ends in themselves.

The purpose of the *mitzvot*, the Sages teach, is to refine and elevate us and give us opportunities to earn credits through sacred and noble acts (see *Mishna Makko* 3:16; *Bereshit Rabbah* 44:1; *Vayikra Rabbah* 13:3; *Bemidbar Rabbah* 15:2, 5, 7, 17:5 and 21:16; and *Tanhuma Shemini* 8, *Beha'alothecha* 2 and *Pinchas* 12).

And Rabbi Hanina ben Dosa teaches: If your deeds exceed your knowledge, your knowledge is of everlasting value; if you do less than you know, your knowledge will not endure (*Avot* 3:11-12).

POET/POLEMICIST Daliah Ravikovich, an avowed secularist, asserts that there is "no secular culture in this country." She writes: "In Israeli secular culture I haven't found a single suitable text for regaling bride and groom or *lehavdil*, consoling the bereaved ... Israeli secular culture consists of jeering the *dati'im* and the way they dress ... [W]hen the Jewish festivals approach ... I haven't the faintest idea what to do about them except fill the refrigerator and sink into boredom" (*Shishi*, December 22, 1995).

# Torah — the Tree of Life

## SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

"Now the serpent was craftier than all the beasts of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God said, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (Gen. 3:1-3)

EVERYONE knows the story of Adam and Eve. The description of the major events seems to imply that they all took place after the first week of creation. But according to the Midrash everything transpired on that first Friday — not only the creation of Adam and Eve, but the expulsion from Eden and all that leads up to it.

Does it really matter if Adam and Eve were driven out on the sixth day, the eighth day or the eighth year? Apparently it does. For if all these momentous events transpired on the very day humans being were created, then whatever happened to Adam was, by definition, within the initial plan of creation.

According to Nahmanides, Adam was originally set upon the earth as a functional being, so that in terms of carrying out the will of God, he was like the sun, the moon and the stars.

However, this was not God's plan for the human being as a "finished" entity. God wanted man to be good, but He wanted humans to choose to be good, and so He gave us an open-ended law, a law of possibility, so that a creature created "in the image of

God" could then freely choose how he would live — hopefully heeding the higher law of God of his own volition, but with the possibility of defying it and suffering the consequences. Nahmanides holds that, based on this midrash, Adam's very creation involves a process. He starts out as a functional creature, but ends up a creature of volition.

There is textual evidence for this change in the presentation of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, which is introduced with a simple statement that in no way forbids the consumption of its fruit. "And out of the ground the Lord God made grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food, the Tree of Life also in the midst of the garden, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil." (Gen. 2:9)

As long as Adam was acting only in accordance with the law of God, there was no possibility for him to veer from the path. By definition, his functionality would have prevented him from rebelling. But since eventually he does rebel, we are forced to conclude that even within God's initial plan for Adam, God wanted him to become a living, choosing (and possibly rebellious) creature.

God gave us free will, and what we do with it determines our lives. This is the strange paradox under which we live. On the one hand, God wants us to do His will, but He knows that our obedience is meaningless unless we are given the possibility of defying Him. And it's this very defiance

and its consequences which creates the process of history. Indeed the turmoil of our daily lives, the seductions and blandishments that tantalize and destroy, can be traced to the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve suddenly becoming aware of their nudity implies a shocking discovery of their existence, not only as sexual creatures for the purpose of love and children, but of sex as lust and violation. Undoubtedly, sexuality has always been a difficult area for us to master. Indeed, the most holy day of the year, Yom Kippur, devotes the afternoon Torah reading to the various sexual prohibitions.

But the narrative doesn't stop here. When the human being forsakes God's commands, the result will be exile and alienation, enmity between humanity and nature, between nations, between husbands and wives, between parents and children. (Gen. 3:15-20) Hence, a magnificent biblical pattern emerges. The goal of Torah is for us to end our exile and return (*TESHUVA*), first from the Diaspora to Israel and then from alienation to the Garden of Eden.

We must rise up from our fall and repair its evil consequences. We must utilize our God-given freedom of choice to obey the voice of God. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil will always be there to tempt, but from now on wise Adam and righteous Eve will only eat from the Tree of Life — another name for Torah, the tree that we are encouraged to eat from as much as we want.

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EVERYWHERE we go we see jelly doughnuts, a sure indication that Hamiklat will soon be here. We're a bit worried that we won't have sufficient funds for the holiday, or for our regular projects, unless donations start pouring in.

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\$15 Judith Goldish, Lakewood, CA.  
\$10 Howard Evans, Palm Bay, FL. Ruth and Isaac Samson, Netanya. Mr. and Mrs. Bezel Weisner, Philadelphia. Naomi Slapnick, Lynchburg, VA. Philip Gressel, Everman, TX. Michael Goldberg, Mahopac, NY. Edward Mangham, Griffin, GA. Rebecca Merestay, Flushing, NY. Sylvia Fleissak, Brookline, MA.  
\$3 Debra Childers, Yaddickville, NC. David Cantor, Rockville, MD.  
New Progress Donations  
NIS 3,827  
\$1,387  
(other currencies converted into shekels)

- was himself an educator — Phyllis Rudy, Ramat Hasharon. In memory of my parents, David and Ita Katz — Dr. Erica Herzlich, J'm.  
NIS 400 Bridge Circle, Migdal Nofim, J'm.  
NIS 340 J. and E.  
NIS 300 in honor of the birth of Zoe Devorah, sister to Nathan, second child of Karen and Michael Segal-Eldikhof of Amsterdam — Julie Cwiklik, Omer. David Brooner, J'm.  
NIS 200 Vivienne, Gino, Elai, Lisa and Jesse Davidson, Hod Hasharon. Residents of 4 Carmon, J'm. Abraham Jacobs, Kfar Yehi.  
NIS 180 Anon., Mevaseret Zion.  
NIS 150 Mimiela van Dam, Haifa. Phillips and Peter Lambert, BeerSheva. In memory of Jerusalem and Leah Fried.  
NIS 105 The Eichler Family, BeerSheva.  
NIS 100 Jack and Shirley Blinson, Ashkelon. Menachem and Sima Bloch, Givatayim. Betty Solomon, Aseret. Ruth Tarell, J'm. In memory of my sister, Renee Harstein, who passed away 10 years ago — Moshe Posner, Tel Aviv. In memory of my brother Dagobert, whose life was taken from him in Auschwitz at the age of 10 years — Leo Direktor, Netanya. Denise and Marcel Greinhammer, Haifa. Ruth and Abba Engelberg, J'm. Y. Sonnsheim, J'm. Sara Schiff, Holon.  
NIS 80 Avriil Nyrak. Kochav special birthday — Debby and Rose, Haifa.  
NIS 72 In honor of Guy and Naama Levin, Ori and Tali Newman — Shoshana Newman, Rehovot. Steve and Yehudit Newman, Beit Shמש.  
NIS 54 In honor of Maureen Lipshitz's birthday — Clive Lipshitz, Tel Aviv. Marcie

- Mimishor, J'm. For David Lipshitz's birthday — C. Lipshitz.  
NIS 50 Avriil Promishev, J'm.  
NIS 40 Anon., J'm. Mazal tov on the birth of Nadav Yisrael Pushter R., Y. A. and D., J'm.  
NIS 36 E. Batt, J'm. In loving memory of Samuel Solomon — his children and grandchildren, Givat Shimon. In memory of my parents, Ida and Morris Slonim — Pat Slonim, Tel Aviv.  
NIS 30 Doris Weinberger, J'm.  
NIS 20 Eva Berkson, Netanya.  
\$180 Interactive Business Services, Bayside, NY.  
\$100 Mark Kroger, Middletown, OH. The Belz Foundation, Memphis. In memory of our parents, Mary and Ben Cohen, Ida and Harry Schneeberg — Gerry and Arthur Schneeberg, Elkins Park, PA.  
\$50 In memory of my father, Leo Frank — Rivka Frank Glan, Cherry Hill, NJ. In memory of my mother-in-law, Maxine Garfunkel, May she rest in peace — Fiona Garfunkel, Port Washington, NY.  
NIS 36 E. Batt, J'm. In memory of my sister, Renee Harstein, who passed away 10 years ago — Moshe Posner, Tel Aviv. In memory of my brother Dagobert, whose life was taken from him in Auschwitz at the age of 10 years — Leo Direktor, Netanya. Denise and Marcel Greinhammer, Haifa. Ruth and Abba Engelberg, J'm. Y. Sonnsheim, J'm. Sara Schiff, Holon.  
NIS 80 Avriil Nyrak. Kochav special birthday — Debby and Rose, Haifa.  
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\$15 Abraham Secor, Bridgeport. Judith Goldish, Lakewood, CA.  
\$10 Yvonne Lin Oshie, Lynn, MA. Seymour Zimer, Jericho, NY. Linda Lord, Wilmette, IL. Naomi Shapiro, Lynchburg, VA. Ruth and Isaac Samson, Netanya.  
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| NIS 330 J. and E.  |                              |
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| NIS 100 In memory of Lew Goldberg of Rehovot — Hillary Segov, Rehovot. Sara Schiff, Holon.   |                              |
| NIS 36 in honor of the 90th birthday of Aliza Joshua of Jerusalem, from Vera. NIS 20 Eva Berkson, Netanya.   |                              |
| \$100 Danielle and Ronald Ellis, Merion Station, PA.   |                              |
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| \$33 Brian Baker, Victorville, CA.   |                              |
| \$25 Marvin Hirschhorn, N. Woodmere, NY.   |                              |
| \$18 Leon Bludstein, Columbia, SC. Boris Schein, Fayetteville, AR. Mrs. William Hall III, Dallas. Abraham Dorman, Delray Beach, FL. Carolyn Sonnenschein, Phoenix. |                              |
| \$15 Judith Goldish, Lakewood, CA.   |                              |
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| Progress Totals<br>NIS 772.26<br>\$323   | NIS 33,168.79<br>\$12,795.49 |





# Peyton Place has nothing on Israel

**T**HE FAST is catching up with Binyamin and Sara Netanyahu in more ways than one. Amongst recent visitors to Israel over Succot was Fleur Harlen a.k.a. the second Mrs Netanyahu, who was here on business. Harlen, who was married to Bibi when he was ambassador to the UN, is a partner in the Lauder Communications group headed by Ronald Lauder, a member of the millionaires' club of Bibi supporters. The Lauder Group has entered into a strategic partnership with the Tama Group from whom it has purchased a large parcel of stock in Jerusalem Capital Studios whose vastly expanded facilities should be completed by the end of the year. Harlen was here to update herself on developments at JCS.

Meanwhile, the third Mrs Netanyahu's ex-husband Doron Neuberger has gossip mongers frothing at the mouth in anticipation of juicy revelations in his upcoming tell-all book about life with Sara. Considering all the mud that's already been slung at her, one wonders what other titillating tidbits there could be. Peyton Place has absolutely nothing on Israel.



Emunah honors former head Yehudit Huebner. (Israel Sam)

Huebner, who just wound up a six-year stint as chairman of Emunah Israel, but she had not expected to be told how much she was loved. Zahava Bassok, who delivered the address of appreciation at a festive supper attended by representatives of World Emunah at the home of Ruth and Peter Medding, left Huebner almost speechless with emotion. She did, however, manage to say that it was "the most interesting and most satisfactory job I ever had in my life." Which considering that she is a Jerusalem City Council vice mayor, a former diplomat and a former deputy director general of the Interior Ministry, was saying quite a lot.

**KILLING THREE** birds with one stone is not exactly the appropriate expression, but the Toast to Jerusalem organized by The

### GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

President's Council of The Jerusalem College of Technology-Machon Lev at Rizi, the relatively new fish and pasta restaurant operated by twins Gabriel and Mikail Lasry served a triple purpose. First and foremost, it raised money for the college. Secondly, it helped to publicize the restaurant, and thirdly, it introduced wine drinkers to Dalton, an up-and-coming brand of Israeli Upper Galilee wines, whose proprietor Mat Haruni happily refilled glasses. Wine and food critic Daniel Rogov, who inter alia writes for *The Jerusalem Post*, observed that although Israel is not producing the great wines of Bordeaux and never will, Israeli wines are definitely improving - so much so that he is not embarrassed to take them to his friends abroad for tasting. JCT Bodenheim expressed an interest in studying Talmudic wines. The college is already exploring the technology of that period.

**NEWLY APPOINTED** head of Israel Television's news department Rafik Halaby gets really annoyed when anyone points out that he is the first member of one of Israel's minority communities to be given so high ranking a position. Although he is a proud Druse, says Halaby, he got the job because of his professional abilities and not because of his ethnic background. He also gets a little hot under the collar when anyone remarks on the fact that he achieved his new status under a right-wing administration. Israel Television,



The work of Simcha Holzberg (above) is carried on by his son. (Sivan Faraj)

notes Halaby, is state-owned, not government-owned.

**SPEAKING AT** the inaugural Nathan and Chaya Glassman Memorial Lecture on *Ahava Yisrael*, controversial philosopher Rabbi David Hartman commented that he knows many people who won't come on aliyah because they want to maintain their love for Israel and the Jewish People. They may be right. Bureaucracy and bigotry do tend to fog up rose-colored glasses.

**THE APPLE** hasn't fallen far from the tree. Ephraim Holzberg, son of the late Simcha Holzberg, who was affectionately known as the father of the wounded, is keeping up his father's tradition of bringing smiles to the faces of wounded soldiers and IDF veterans. The younger Holzberg recently hosted a memorial evening

for his father at the Tel Aviv Hilton to which he invited some 300 of the people who had been cheered in their darkest hours by the irrepressible and often outrageous Simcha.

Also present were entertainer Yehoram Gaon, who sang many of his most popular songs, former Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (himself a seriously wounded war veteran) and former Knesset chairman Dov Shilansky, who worked closely with Simcha Holzberg in giving hope to those who believed that their lives had been shattered beyond repair. Many of the veterans shared anecdotes about the man who had been so instrumental in putting them back on track.

**LET THEM** eat cake! It almost didn't happen. Genia Yehzekiel, president of the Moriah chapter of Bnei Brith, was delighted when more people than expected showed up for the Betty Barclay fashion-show fundraiser for needy children, but the Laromne Hotel was unprepared for such a large turnout and nearly ran out of cake. Many of the guests had to wait a long time to be served - not because the cakes were being freshly baked, but because they were being defrosted.

**FOOD FOR** thought. Rabbi Avraham Feder in his Shemini Atzeret/Simhat Torah sermon at the Moshesh Israel Conservative synagogue in Jerusalem, observed that people on both the extreme left and the extreme right of the political spectrum have become so prejudiced in their thinking that they judge statements not by their content, but by those who make them.

**INTERNATIONAL CHESS** champion Garry Kasparov, who is due in Israel next week, may give Prime Minister Netanyahu a few timely pointers on the relationship between chess and politics. Kasparov is scheduled to meet the prime minister. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who is himself a cunning chess player. Sharansky and several other noted Israeli chess enthusiasts will try to best Kasparov when he plays them simultaneously at an exhibition match at Jerusalem's Gerard Behar Center.

**LAST NIGHT'S** gala celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of the Israel Tennis Center included a public auction with several valuable items offered on the block. But the most poignant of all was the donation by veteran tennis player Leah Rabin of the racket used by her husband, slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who shared her avid enthusiasm for the game to which she introduced him some three decades ago to help him unwind.

# Labor big guns snipe at Bibi while party smoulders

THE WEEK THAT WAS  
MICHAL YUDELMAN



Sara Netanyahu faces threats of revelations from her ex-husband.

**L**ABOR, which for the most part has seemed to remain in shock from the election results, this week launched a full-scale information offensive against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his government. Party leader MK Shimon Peres sounded off with a harsh assault in the Knesset. His shots across government bows were followed up by scathing attacks from a battery of party big guns including MKs Ehud Barak, Uzi Baram, Dalia Izzik and Shlomo Ben-Ami at a Tel Aviv news conference.

The results were immediate. Instead of dealing with acute current affairs, Netanyahu devoted much of his public utterances, and even his address to coalition members, to countering Peres and the Oslo Accords. Yes, those are the same Oslo Accords he pledged to US President Bill Clinton he would keep.

But Labor's strident anti-government campaign could not drown out the rumbling within the party itself over the inevitable leadership showdown. As Peres's camp musters support to postpone the contest by a year or two, contender Barak is having none of it. He is building up his own power base and calling support gatherings in his drive to have the showdown exactly on the scheduled date next summer, and not a day later.

Baram, who is also considering entering the battle for party leadership, also opposes any delay in the showdown. As Peres, Barak and Baram rose for a group photo-opportunity at the end of the press conference, Peres and Barak made a valiant attempt to overcome the tension between them and gamely shook hands.

**BELTWAY** BLUES  
Leon Charney, a delegate at the Democratic convention in Chicago for the State of New York, has been told by Washington insiders that Clinton was upset and irritated by having to schedule the emergency Middle East summit following the Hasmonean Tunnel crisis. The effort set him seriously behind in his preparations for his crucial debate with Republican candidate Bob Dole.

Beltway experts say the Washington summit, which achieved no more than getting the two intransigent players to talk to one another at Erez, cost Clinton two invaluable days from his incredibly crammed presidential and campaigning schedule. After the campaign debate, a vital element in the presidential campaign, Clinton's massive lead over Dole dropped to a mere 5 percent. Could it be that he was less than well prepared as a result of taking time off to knock tiresome Middle Eastern heads together?

Charney, filming in Israel for his television show this week, said Washington insiders also felt that Secretary of State Warren Christopher scored some black presidential marks for failing to handle the situation without having to drag the parties all the way to Washington for presidential intervention in what was something short of a real world crisis. Charney's belief that Clinton is the most empathetic US president to Israel ever was echoed by Peres.

The Labor leader was among many politicians, academics and political experts interviewed for the *Leon Charney Report*, broadcast on WNYE television, a PBS station in New York. But the general impression in Washington is that if he is reelected, a Clinton freed from his need for Jewish votes may sing a different and harsher tune in dealings with Netanyahu. On the other hand, Charney said, Vice President Al Gore will remain solicitous of his relations with the Israeli government, since there is no doubt he will be the top Democrat choice for the Oval Office in 2000.

Gore might be the best antidote to prevent anything outrageous from Clinton's administration," Charney said. Incidentally, US election campaign expert Arthur Finkelstein, whose campaign is said to have played a key role in getting Netanyahu elected, was rejected by Dole, according to *The Choice*, a book by Bob Woodward. Woodward writes that Dole rejected Finkelstein because of his habit of viciously attacking his client's political opponents. Does that ring any bells?

After interviewing some 12 people for his television show, Charney said he felt "the only way out of this quagmire is a national unity government." He also said a shift in government policies may only be brought about by economic conditions. If economic pressures get sufficiently acute, they might just push Netanyahu back on the peace track.

**RED HERRING**  
At regular intervals, that red herring called national unity govern-

ment is indeed pulled out of the freezer and waved about. Amid mutual recriminations between Netanyahu and Labor this week, rumors swelled of contacts aimed at a national unity government. It was widely reported that both Netanyahu and Peres met Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef (separately, of course) and pored over the red-herring entrails.

Yosef, meanwhile, came out with an assault on the authority of Supreme Court judges. The Movement for Quality of Government in Israel lodged a police complaint against him for perceived contempt of court, calling for rebellion and insulting public officials.

Netanyahu and Peres had nothing to say about Yosef's utterance that Supreme Court judges "are worse than the courts of Gentiles," "are not judges of Israel" and "ran to feed the People of Israel corpses and abominations." However, some sources said the prime minister had asked Yosef to mediate between himself and Labor leaders on the issue of a unified government.



Ovadia Yosef, said to be courted by Labor and Likud.

eminent should be enough, according to this theory, to shut up even the most strident opponents. "It won't work," Labor said. But the issue became the talk of the day in political circles and even Baram, who until now has rejected the idea out of hand, said he would be willing to consider it if Netanyahu offered an opening-up of the government's policy guidelines.

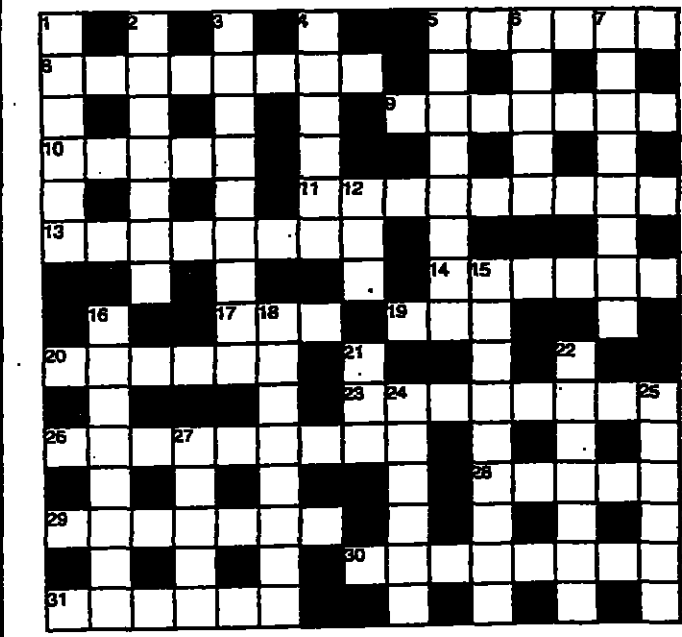
**SIZZLERS** ALL  
We had a "sizzling cassette" affair, now at last we may have our very own, made-in-Israel, Lady Di substitute. Lady Sara. Sara Netanyahu's first husband this week threatened to do a "James Hewitt" on his ex-wife and publish a book revealing intimate and embarrassing secrets about her. (Hewitt was the cad and bounder who told all in a sleazy book about his five-year affair with Princess Diana.)

Thus, on the day a fake Princess Di starred in the British press, romping with a fake former lover Hewitt in a fake video cassette, our own Sara seemed next in line to hit the yellow news stands. Ah, the trials of public life in the '90s. All that's missing now is a hokey cassette of Sara to emulate the Diana fraud swallowed by *The Star* newspaper. But then, there is that famous if nonexistent video cassette of her husband's infidelities which tricked him into a very real exposure of his escapades on national television.

**SRULIK** by DOSH

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 5 Strike engulfs a corporation (6)
  - 8 Standards in American bars (8)
  - 9 Gallery following champion? That's the stuff records are made of! (7)
  - 10 Governor serving 8? (5)
  - 11 Irreverence of wise man clutching broken relic (9)
  - 13 Abandoned dwelling reduced in price (8)
  - 14 Abroad, proclaim vehement protest (6)
  - 17 The present picked up on the way back? (3)
  - 19 Building society worker and assistant, in part (3)
  - 20 Country air? (6)
  - 23 Early call to stir tars, possibly (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Polished, rounded ball destroying moths (6)
  - 2 Pop's not late, it seems, for the diversion? (7)
  - 3 Point of delivery to amuse people? (5,4)
  - 4 Bay for a holiday? (6)
  - 5 Old rogue in Capri resort with nothing on (8)
  - 6 Up to that time in a punt, illegally? (5)
  - 7 Travel by rail after cold tea spillage in this class (8)
  - 12 Tree has suffered damage (3)
  - 15 Delivery complete, article is to go on top of church (9)
  - 16 Rex inept, clumsy and amateurish (8)
  - 18 Oversight? Ring embassy. (8)
  - 21 ...French ring back (3)
  - 22 Medicine to gratify lad endlessly on location (7)
  - 24 Go through terminals on river (6)
  - 25 Judge needs quarters empty (6)
  - 27 The French hail-and-farewell (5)



### SOLUTIONS

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MESSAGE UVINGIN  
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U E B  
T U R I N I T R O V E R T  
O E I O  
P L A S T E R E D M I C A H  
A R T I S T  
L I C H T A T T E N T I O N  
A E T S A O A G  
O U T R I E S R E F I N E D  
I I E K E I T O  
N O S W E A T S P A R I N G

Yesterday's Quick Solution  
ACROSS: 5 Piece, 8 Treaties, 9 Spuma, 10 Intruder, 11 Glog, 14 Eke, 16 Jovial, 17 Chosen, 18 Fit, 20 Psalm, 24 Effusive, 25 Feign, 26 Immature, 27 Greek.  
DOWN: 1 Stead, 2 Hertz, 3 Stout, 4 Repeat, 6 Impression, 7 Companion, 12 Forewarn, 13 Dialogue, 14 Elk, 16 Act, 19 Infantry, 21 Dubai, 23 Pious, 25 Eaten.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Relaxation (4)
  - 3 More knotted (8)
  - 9 Keyboard instrument (5)
  - 10 Tailless feline (4,3)
  - 11 Word of consent (3)
  - 13 Learning (9)
  - 14 Limited (6)
  - 16 Tranquil (6)
  - 18 Defamatory remark (9)
  - 20 Unhappy (3)
  - 22 Dandified (7)
  - 23 Fill with horror (5)
  - 25 Generosity (8)
  - 26 Remain (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Dark wood (5)
  - 2 Droop (3)
  - 4 Protective covering (6)
  - 5 Topmost side of ship (7)
  - 6 Skin irritation (9)
  - 7 Train (7)
  - 8 Formerly (4)
  - 12 Shore bird (9)
  - 14 Afraid (7)
  - 15 Ant-like insect (7)
  - 17 Wealth (6)
  - 19 Close to (4)
  - 21 Hold-up (5)
  - 24 Favourite (3)

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, October 11, 1996

ANNOUNCEMENT



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The settlement offer of \$26 less fees and expenses, not to exceed \$1.00, to InterPharm shareholders, who held shares on May 6, 1994 and still hold them, will expire on October 15, 1996.

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## Strauss may seek partner to expand its Elite holdings

Galit Lipkis Beck

STRAUSS is considering plans to join forces with an international food conglomerate to increase its holdings in Elite Industries after Elite completes its recovery program, concern chairman Michael Strauss confirmed yesterday.

The Strauss chairman denied reports that Strauss is negotiating to gain control of Elite Industries from the Federman family.

During the last few months the Strauss family has held preliminary discussions with David Federman, chairman of Elite, to acquire some of the Federman family's shares in the company. At the moment there are no discussions on the issue but the subject has not been ruled out.

"We are good friends and talk all the time but there have never been discussions concerning Strauss gaining control of the company. There were discussions regarding equalization of the voting shares," said Strauss.

Sources close to Federman said the talks were held due to the Federman family's pressure to repay its debts to the banks. Approximately one year ago the Federman family purchased 25% of Elite's shares from the British

concern Man for \$44m., after a power struggle for control against a group headed by businessman Bino Zadic. The Federman family purchased the shares with the help of a bank loan and shortly afterwards sold a package representing 15% of the voting shares and 7% of the capital shares to the Strauss group.

According to the source, the Federman family, which is currently paying high interest rates on its bank loan, is financially pressured. The source said Elite continues to post low earnings and as a result of the continued slump on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the value of the company's shares has gone down.

Federman could not be reached for comment.

The Federman family currently hold 26.68% of the voting shares and 13% of the capital shares of Elite. While Strauss, through its subsidiary Gideon Holdings, controls 17% of the voting shares and 7.82% of the capital shares.

It is estimated that the Strauss and Federman groups will try to equate their shares in the food

company, so that the two families will each control 21% of the shares. Gideon Holdings has first right of refusal according to its partnership agreement with the Federman family which was signed six months ago.

Sources in the food sector expect Strauss to try and gain control of Elite in partnership with a large international food conglomerate like Unilever, Danone, or Phillip Morris after the company's performance turns around. The sources said an international conglomerate will help Elite compete worldwide.

International food manufacturer Unilever is already an equal partner with Strauss in the company's ice cream division while the French-based food giant Danone has an agreement with Strauss to purchase 20% of Strauss Dairies in Nahariya. Phillip Morris has in the past expressed interest in investing in the food market in Israel and even discussed the issue with Elite.

"We are not looking for partners at this point in time. Elite is currently in the midst of a recovery plan but maybe in future we will consider this option," said Strauss.

## Trade deficit shrank 0.25% per month in third quarter

David Harris

THE trade deficit shrank at the monthly rate of 0.25 percent during the third quarter of the year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. However, the bureau is warning this may not be a long-lasting trend, but that would only become apparent in the coming months.

The deficit totalled \$700 million in September, imports reaching \$2.3 billion and exports \$1.6b. Of the imports, 44% were of raw materials (excluding ships, airplanes, diamonds and fuel, which comprised 27%), 15% investment materials and 14% consumer goods.

Last month exports comprised industrial products (excluding diamonds) 67%, polished diamonds 31% and agricultural produce 2%. The trade deficit for the first nine months totalled \$8.1b., against \$7.3b. recorded in the same period in 1995, with imports increasing by \$1.6b. and exports \$0.8b.

The figures show a steady increase in imports, excluding diamonds and fuel, over recent months, according to the CBS. At the same time, a monthly average increase of 0.33% was registered in exports.

As a result, the trade deficit shrank by 0.25% a month.

Imports of raw and investment materials largely remained unchanged since March, with an increase in consumer goods brought into the country.

Industrial exports increased by some 0.33% to 0.5% in recent months, this after a steady flow in the first four months of the year. Sales of agricultural produce ended the season, which began last October, 15% higher at \$800m., compared to \$693m. in the previous year.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor agreed yesterday to examine ways of reducing the trade deficit with the European Union. During a meeting with EU Ambassador Jean Paul Jesse, Meridor agreed that a joint committee, which is scheduled to meet early next year, will discuss the deficit, which totalled \$6.5m. in 1995.

BITS AND BYTES  
JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

**Elsicint Signs Distribution Agreement in Japan:** Elsicint Ltd. (NYSE: ELT) recently announced that it has signed a distribution agreement with a vendor in Japan, giving it the exclusive distribution and service rights to Elsicint's nuclear medicine products in the Japanese market. One of the first activities of the collaboration will be the introduction of Elsicint's VariCam, a nuclear medicine system. Elsicint designs a variety of computer-based medical imaging products.

**IMT Produces On-Line Resource for Jewish Education:** Intoumet Marketing and Travel Ltd. has announced its latest tool for Internet-based early childhood Jewish education. "Edjewcate," which features the products of HaKol LeGan will be used as an online resource room for teachers and parents. Edjewcate can be accessed at [www.intoumet.co.il/edjewcate](http://www.intoumet.co.il/edjewcate).

**Liraz Sets Up Internet Site:** The Liraz Publishing company has announced the establishment of a new site on the Internet that is designed to help business people. The site will offer interviews with business people as well as advice on how to manage personnel, how to develop a small business and how to network in cyberspace. The site can be accessed at [www.liraz.com/hebrew.htm](http://www.liraz.com/hebrew.htm).

Gov't cuts won't affect Vishay's Investments  
JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

VISHAY Intertechnology, Inc. yesterday announced that the proposed government reduction of investment grants from 34 percent to 20% does not affect Vishay.

Vishay said that a reduction in the government's investment grants would not affect the company's current plans for expansion in its plants in Dimona, Beersheba and Migdal Ha'emek, which have received promises of government grants of 38% or 34%.

However, the government's proposed plans to reduce investment grants might affect the company's plans to open a plant in Ofakim, a source close to the company said.

Months ago former prime minister Shimon Peres and finance minister Avraham Shohat appealed personal-

ly to company president Felix Zandman to set up a plant in the struggling development town, at first offering the company a 38% grant and then reducing its offer to 34%.

Vishay is still waiting for completion of the agreement, which was supposed to happen months ago, and will base its decision on the government's final offer, the source said. Zandman is expected to visit Israel within the next month.

Based in Pennsylvania, Vishay develops and manufactures a wide range of electronic resistors and resistive sensors. The company markets its products to the computer, telecommunications, military/aerospace, instrument and automotive industries. Vishay Israel's four plants currently employ 2,800 workers.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

**Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)**

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (10.10.96)**

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5311	3.5381	3.11	3.27	3.5833
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.1645	3.2155	2.71	2.87	3.1920
German mark	2.0856	2.1000	2.03	2.13	2.0481
French franc	4.8524	5.0323	4.88	5.11	4.9864
Japanese yen (100)	0.8114	0.8213	0.80	0.83	0.8172
Dutch florin	2.8407	2.8588	2.79	2.83	2.8680
Swiss franc	1.8422	1.8720	1.81	1.80	1.8598
Swedish krona	2.5241	2.5649	2.48	2.61	2.5493
Norwegian krona	0.4789	0.4887	0.47	0.50	0.4835
Denish krone	0.4859	0.4938	0.47	0.51	0.4904
Finnish mark	0.5330	0.5482	0.53	0.58	0.5445
Canadian dollar	0.8918	0.9028	0.87	0.72	0.8973
Australian dollar	2.3488	2.3817	2.30	2.42	2.3826
S. African rand	2.4854	2.5357	2.45	2.58	2.5158
Belgian franc (10)	0.5842	0.7054	0.62	0.71	0.7013
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0030	1.0192	0.98	1.04	1.0123
Italian lire (1000)	2.9378	2.9892	2.88	3.03	2.9859
Jordanian dinar	2.0762	2.1057	2.03	2.14	2.0842
Egyptian pound	4.4000	4.7000	4.40	4.70	4.5025
ECU	0.9000	0.9800	0.90	0.98	1.0200
Irish punt	3.9558	4.0197	—	—	3.9924
Spanish peseta (100)	5.0775	5.1594	4.89	5.24	5.1184
	2.4657	2.4854	2.41	2.53	2.4785

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Walk into Wall Street  
**CLARK ADDISON**  
 SECURITIES LTD.  
 U.S. STOCK AND COMMODITY BROKERS  
 DISCOUNT COMMISSIONS  
 Tel: 02-624-7765 Fax: 02-623-5759,  
 E Mail: [CASTOCK@Netvision.net.il](mailto:CASTOCK@Netvision.net.il)  
 25 Keren Hayesod St., Jerusalem

**OLD MUTUAL GUERNSEY**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A GUARANTEED INVESTMENT

Old Mutual Guernsey

In conjunction with the

Union Bank of Switzerland\*

are pleased to offer the Secure Stockmarket Index Plus Fund - a single premium unit-linked investment

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- \* Minimum return of 100% of the US Dollar value of your initial investment\*
- \* No upfront charges. 100% of your capital invested.
- \* Denominated in US Dollars. Minimum investment US\$50,000
- \* Limited offer period - available only from 14 October to 28 November 1996
- \* Cleared funds received by 7/11/96 will receive a 0.25% bonus

Investors should remember that past performance is no guarantee of future returns.

\* The return is dependent on the credit-worthiness of the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) and should UBS fail to meet its obligations to Old Mutual Guernsey, investors may receive a lower amount than expected, provided the investment has been held until the maturity date.

For further information please contact our exclusive marketing agent  
 Pioneer International in Tel Aviv at: 03-6951375  
 or Fax: 03-6956919 or Jerusalem at Tel: 02-5300110  
 or Fax: 02-6233934

Please note that this advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy units in the Fund. Units in the Fund are offered only pursuant to the RAM brochure and scheme particulars, copies of which are available on request.

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?

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 DIAL 03-519111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.  
**ID ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK**

THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT COMPANIES AUTHORITY hereby announces that it is considering selling all the shares held by the State of Israel (hereafter: "the State Shares") in: **Yozma Venture Capital Ltd. (hereafter: "Yozma")**

Parties (other than "Government Corporations" as defined in the below-mentioned Sale Procedure) interested in purchasing all the State Shares (100%), are entitled to apply to the Government of Israel through the Government Companies Authority as specified in this advertisement.

Necessary application forms and documents - written in Hebrew - including the Procedure for Sale of the State Shares (hereafter: "the Sale Procedure"), may be purchased as of Sunday, October 13, 1996, from Ms. Ronit Unanian or Mr. Dan Weintraub, Government Companies Authority, 1 Kaplan St., 7th floor, Room 725, Jerusalem; Tel. 02-317292, 02-317198; Fax. 02-811680, for a sum of NIS 5,000 (which shall not be refunded), payable by a banker's cheque to the Ministry of Finance - the Accountant General.

According to the conditions set forth in the Sale Procedure, the final date for submitting applications is no later than 18:00, Sunday, November 24, 1996. The Government Companies Authority may, by way of a published announcement, extend or advance the final date for submission of applications, as well as change other dates and conditions in the Sale Procedure, at its sole and absolute discretion.

Prior to the sale of the State's Shares, Yozma's assets and liabilities resulting from its investments in venture capital funds will be transferred to the Government, in accordance with the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Privatization.

The Government shall be entitled, at its sole and absolute discretion, to select from among the applicants and from among other parties it may address, candidates who shall continue to participate in the sale process, after considering which candidates best satisfy the requirements specified in the Sale Procedure, including among others, managerial, development and investment capabilities in Yozma's spheres of activity, the existence of business plans for the development and enhancement of the company's business and other requirements, specified in the Sale Procedure.

The sale of the State Shares is exempt from the obligation to hold a tender, under the "Obligation of Tenders Regulations - 1993".

The method of privatizing Yozma was approved by the Finance Committee of the Knesset on October 7, 1996.

In order to remove any doubt, it is hereby clarified that this advertisement does not constitute an invitation to the general public to purchase the State Shares, nor does it constitute an offer or undertaking on the part of the Government to sell the State Shares. The purchaser of the State Shares shall be determined on the basis of negotiations which the Government may, at its sole and absolute discretion, conduct with any party, if it shall decide to proceed with the said sale.

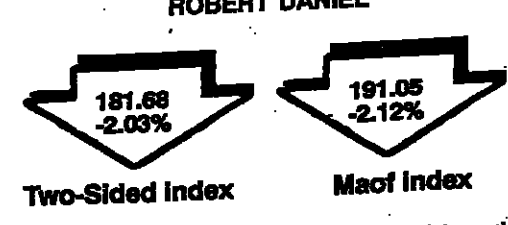
The purchase of the State Shares is subject to the prior approval of the Antitrust Authority.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

TASE indexes drop by over two percent

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



The Two-Sided Index sank 2.03 percent to 181.68, while the Maof Index declined 2.12% to 191.05.

Markets hurt by surprisingly small rise in US jobless claims

LONDON (Reuters) - The London stock market ended on a resilient note yesterday, clawing back most of the losses triggered mid-afternoon by a smaller-than-expected rise in US jobless claims.

FRANKFURT - German stocks extend losses to close floor-trade lower amid Wall Street worries and a weaker German debt market.

PARIS - French shares closed sharply lower, in line with an opening fall on Wall Street after a surprise decline in US unemployment claims.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares closed near their day low as a weaker Wall Street led global markets away from their recent record highs.

NYSE lower amid new inflation worries

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell again yesterday as interest rates rose further in the bond market after some signs of economic strength stirred lingering inflation worries.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 8.95 points and closed at 5,921.67, extending a week-long slide from record levels.

Stocks have struggled this week amid growing caution before the impending release of company earnings reports and new inflation data.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 2.21 to 694.53, and the NYSE's composite index fell 1.00 to 370.35.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns for CURRENCY, MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Includes values for Sterling, Yen, Swiss Franc, and Deutsche Mark.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table of stock prices and changes for various companies like Adva, Azura, and others. Includes columns for Name, Price, and Change.

Two-sided trading

Table of stock prices and changes for companies like Alpar, Alpar, and others. Includes columns for Name, Price, and Change.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrial, DJ Total, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes like FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks listed in the US, including Adva, Azura, and others.

INFLATION MARKETS

Table of dollar crossrates for various currencies.

LIBOR RATES

Table of Libor rates for various terms and currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Text providing contact information for CommStock Trading Ltd.

INFLATION MARKETS

Table of US commodities like Corn, Soybean, and Wheat.

London commodities

Table of London commodities like Gold, Silver, and Copper.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metals like Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

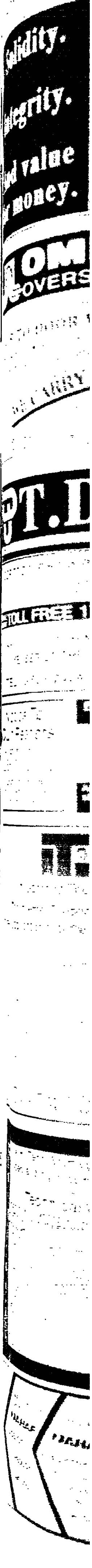
London metal fixes

Table of London metal fixes for Gold, Silver, and Copper.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and name.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various companies across different markets.



Handwritten text at the bottom center of the page: 'מאזן של האלטר'.







DWELLINGS Jerusalem
FRENCH HILL, COTTAGE, 6.5, well planned, courtyard, private entrance, close to MISHKENOT MELECH DAVID, MALDAN. Tel. 02-6426363.

RECHOV TCHERNEHOVSKY, 4 rooms, large, balcony, elevator, excellent condition; 1 1/2 floor. Tel. 02-6787518.

BET HAKEREM (REHOV HECHALUTZ), 2 bedrooms, 1st floor, immediate, \$195,000. Exclusive to BETTER BAYIT. Tel. 02-563-9345.

GIVAT MORDECHAI, 4 + garden, master bedroom, view, storage room, parking, \$245,000. ANGLO SAXON (Maldan), Tel. 02-563-9345.

TASTEFULLY RESTORED HISTORIC HOME 140 m. Nahlat, fireplace, courtyard, no agent fees. \$345,000.

KING DAVID TOWERS, 4-5 + pool, plus security, magnificent penthouse, NEVE, Tel. 03-5220447.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, FULLY equipped cottage + garden + swimming pool. Short/long rentals. Tel. 03-5468623.

KIRYAT SHMUEL (HATKUPA), 4.5, beautiful, comfortable floor, dining area, succa balcony, parking, redecorated, \$389,000. SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE through ANGLO-SAXON. Tel. 02-6251161.

REHAVIA (RASHBA) - 3 rooms, quiet, elevator, parking, good condition. \$330,000. HABITAT REAL ESTATE Tel. 02-5611222.

BETWEEN JERUSALEM THEATER and German Colony, in fine old Arab house, 5 room duplex, garden, view. ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE, 19 King David St. Tel. 02-6255595.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY, WOLFSON 5, 11th floor, view of Knesset, storage, parking, \$495,000. ISRAELI, Tel. 02-566-8671.

WHERE TO STAY JERUSALEM, B&B, guest house, singles, couples, families & groups, central, very pleasant. Tel. 02-581-9944. Fax: 02-582-2592.

MAGNIFICENT APARTMENTS 1-3 BEDROOMS in the Opera Tower Tel. 03-549-9498, 052-536887

HERZLIYA, 5 ROOM apartment, fully furnished, a/c, parking, elevator, immediate. GACTUS, Tel. 03-580001.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Notices in this feature, which appears every Friday, are charged at NIS28.08 per line, including VAT, insertion every Friday of the month costs NIS87.75 per line, including VAT.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Lutheran Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 276111, 281049.

JERUSALEM HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning services, 9:30 a.m. Succot: Sat., Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m. Shmini Atzeret/Simhat Torah: Sat., Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Nondenominational, Sat., 10:00 to noon. Near ACE/Sheikhin exit-Haifa Hwy. Call Karim 09-556494 or Luke 08-542813.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION, 3 km. north of Petah Tikva, near Ramat, Junction, Shabbat Bible study Saturday 9:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 09-582545.

Immanuel Church (Lutheran), Tel Aviv-Yaffo, 15 Beer Sheva (near 7th Street), Tel. 03-629254 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

CONDUCTED TOURS Tourists and Visitors, come and see the General Israel Orphans Home for Girls, Jerusalem's manifold activities and impressively modern buildings. Free guided tours weekdays 9-12 Bus no. 14, 24 or 5, Kiryat Moshe, 523291.

AMIT WOMEN: See Israel's future. Visit our projects. Sun-Thurs. a.m. - Jerusalem 02-5619222. Tel Aviv 03-5272528

WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun-Thur. 11 a.m. from Bronman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 882818.

JERUSALEM JER-CHRISTIAN Pentecostal Worship Service, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Fri., Sat., 7:30 p.m. Sun. 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel. 02-628964.

SHARON REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Lutheran Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 276111, 281049.

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ART GUIDE

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Haifa) Israeli art exhibition: 'The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Illness and Healing in Ancient Times - Impressions and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7; Fri. 10-1. Sat. 10-2. ADMISSION FREE.

JERUSALEM Museums OLD YESHUV COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Ha-Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Susan and Anton Roland-Rosenberg Collection: 24 master pieces by modern artists. Fauvism: 'Wild Beasts', Josef Beuys: Drawings and Objects. Primitivist sculptures. New Tendencies: Sculpture. 'Face to Face' The Museum Collections. HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Summer Exhibition for Children: Celebration of Colour, games and workshop. I Am You. Artists Against Violence. 20 posters. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.-10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 0919155-8.

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9206 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Erin - Emotional First Aid, Jerusalem 58-10303, Tel Aviv 548-1111 (children/youth 698-1113), Haifa 867-2222, BeerSheva 648-4538, Netanya 9251110, Karmiel 989-9770, Kiryat Sava 974555, Hadara 346789.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4818, 544-9191 (net), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 859-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursdays 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-505720.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, October 11 Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A. 3 Avidror, 670-6680; Baisam, Saleh E. Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Alkawa, Herod's Gate, 629-2058. Tel Aviv: Pe'er Masket, 61 Yehuda Hayyim, 682-2973; Benny, 174 Ditzengoff, 622-2386. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hasharon, 55 Derech Ramatayim, Hod Hasharon, 406781. Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 352484. Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simat Mod'In, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Morikazin, 9 Maslat (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Har'el, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS Friday, October 11

Jerusalem: Sheara Zadek (internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, October 12

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ENT); Silur Holim (obstetrics, pediatrics); Sheara Zadek (ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, October 12

Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 629-3896; (evening) Center Pharm, 20 Yad Hanutzim, 673-1475; (day and evening) Baisam, Saleh E-Din, 272315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Alkawa, Herod's Gate, 629-2058, 629-2973; Benny, 174 Ditzengoff, 622-2386. Tel Aviv: Pe'er Masket, 61 Yehuda Hayyim, 682-2973; Benny, 174 Ditzengoff, 622-2386. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hasharon, 55 Derech Ramatayim, Hod Hasharon, 406781. Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 352484. Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simat Mod'In, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Morikazin, 9 Maslat (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Har'el, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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POLICE 100

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod 651530 Kiryat Sava 930222 Kofitikon 651132 Nahariya 8912333

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Gilo St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim, Advice by phone 02-843-8882.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Breast Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

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Saturday, October 12

Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 629-3896; (evening) Center Pharm, 20 Yad Hanutzim, 673-1475; (day and evening) Baisam, Saleh E-Din, 272315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Alkawa, Herod's Gate, 629-2058, 629-2973; Benny, 174 Ditzengoff, 622-2386. Tel Aviv: Pe'er Masket, 61 Yehuda Hayyim, 682-2973; Benny, 174 Ditzengoff, 622-2386. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hasharon, 55 Derech Ramatayim, Hod Hasharon, 406781. Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 352484. Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simat Mod'In, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Morikazin, 9 Maslat (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Har'el, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Gilo St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim, Advice by phone 02-843-8882.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Breast Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

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Friday, October 11 Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A. 3 Avidror, 670-6680; Baisam, Saleh E. Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Alkawa, Herod's Gate, 629-2058. Tel Aviv: Pe'er Masket, 61 Yehuda Hayyim, 682-2973; Benny, 174 Ditzengoff, 622-2386. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hasharon, 55 Derech Ramatayim, Hod Hasharon, 406781. Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 352484. Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simat Mod'In, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Morikazin, 9 Maslat (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Har'el, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS Friday, October 11

Jerusalem: Sheara Zadek (internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, October 12

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ENT); Silur Holim (obstetrics, pediatrics); Sheara Zadek (ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

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# PM to reveal privatization plan soon

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will reveal his plan for the privatization of government companies within the next few weeks, he said yesterday.

"We intend to enact a comprehensive privatization program," he said. "The legal and organizational are being completed now so that we can gradually sell off government assets to the public. We don't believe in holding on to assets. There must be a special reason for the government to keep banks or airlines."

Speaking to the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv, he also said he is resolved to carry out at least NIS 4.9 billion in budget cuts, adding that additional cuts may be necessary because government revenue has

been less than forecast.

He said the budget will be brought before the Knesset for first reading end of the month.

He slammed the previous government for leaving him a failing economy, not in the least because of the "excessive" wage agreements it had reached.

He promised that changes would be made in the budget cuts to avoid harming the weaker sectors of the population.

"We certainly understand specific social needs," he said, "specifically those of development towns and the weakest sectors of society. We will make the needed corrections so that they will not be harmed any more than is absolutely necessary." (Irim)



Former secretary of state Henry Kissinger (left) shakes hands with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon during an Israel-North America Business Conference in New York on Wednesday. (AP)

# Hamas warns US not to extradite Marzook

HAMAS warned yesterday the United States would "pay a price" if it extradites a political leader of the group to Israel.

"The extradition of the struggler, Doctor Mousa Abu Marzook, will ignite a new round of bloody confrontation," Hamas said in a leaflet faxed to an international news agency in Jerusalem.

"The leaders of injustice and aggression in America and the Zionist entity will realize what a mistake they have made," it said. "The American provocation against our people and our children's feelings will not last long without a price being paid."

In New York on Wednesday a federal judge refused to stop the extradition of Marzook, who is to be returned to Israel on charges of murder and other violent acts.

"We in the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas see this American decision as a new, clear declaration of war against the Palestinian people," the Hamas leaflet said.

Abu Marzook's extradition will not be immediate because he can appeal against the ruling. His lawyer could not be reached for comment.

In addition, the US secretary of state has not yet certified the deportation order. (Reuters)

# Lebanese press: Two SLA soldiers defected, one captured

FIGHTING continued in the security zone yesterday when gunmen opened fire twice with light weapons at a South Lebanese Army outpost in the zone's western sector.

There were no casualties in the early morning attack on the position in the Beit Leif area and SLA gunmen returned fire.

Hizbullah and its rival Amal have been concentrating their operations recently against SLA targets, especially long-range attacks on SLA positions.

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine told reporters on Wednesday it appeared the terrorists thought that the SLA was a weak link. He stressed, however, that the SLA was coping well and was continuing

to carry out routine operations and even initiate activities.

As if in response to Levine's comments, Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday that two SLA soldiers had recently defected to what was described as the "liberalized areas." The two reported defectors, who were named as Haytham Nassr, 16, who served at the Barasheet compound, and Ahmed Baddah, from Beit Leif, also gave interviews which were broadcast on Hizbullah radio.

Baddah was quoted as saying that he had been seeking to leave the SLA and the zone for a long time and the opportunity arose after his family crossed to the

north to vote in the Lebanese elections and stayed there.

Nassr was quoted as saying that a roadside bomb which blew up near Barasheet village, north of the zone, on April 9 killing a teenager and wounding three others, had been prepared by the IDF. Hizbullah blamed the IDF at the time and fired Katyusha rockets at the Galilee, prompting Operation Grapes of Wrath two days later.

There were also reports in the Lebanese newspapers earlier this week that an Amal reconnaissance patrol had captured another SLA soldier while he was hunting in the Talousa region the previous week.

The newspaper reports identified him as Natik Dakik, of Markabeh village.

# Israeli firms prepare for military exhibit in US

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

FIVE Israeli companies will be plying their wares at an annual AUSA defense industry show in Washington next week. The show, which coincides with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's visit to the American capital, draws the top defense companies from around the world.

The Israeli industries are presenting a wide range of materiel, starting from protective body armor to drones and cannons. An additional three Israeli companies will be featuring the US-Israeli developed Nautilus laser, designed to shoot down incoming missiles. The Israel Aircraft Industries will be displaying its range of unmanned surveillance aircraft. Rafael will be pushing its battle-tested "reactive add-on armor." Rafael is hoping to sell the armor, which is installed on the Merkava tanks in Lebanon, to the US Army for its Bradley fighting vehicles.

The other Israeli defense industries are El-Op, which will be showing its helmet-mounted display for helicopter pilots and tank commanders, and EFW which supplies parts for the Bradley. Israel Military Industries will showcase its 120 mm cannon system, and the new 5.56 mm "Negev" light machine gun. It also is plying its body armor and non-lethal ammunition which is in growing demand among US law enforcement agencies.

# Product developed here may ease Alzheimer's

A PRODUCT developed here that is derived from soya lecithin has been found in clinical tests to slow the deterioration of Alzheimer's patients and even bring about an improvement in their memory and cognitive abilities, a Kaplan Hospital team has reported.

The team - Dr. Ya'acov Gindin, Dr. Simona Naor, Dr. Yurii Stovichek and Orli Roich - reported at this week's Jerusalem International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease about the effects of Al-Telect, the phospholipid mixture developed here. The

product contains phosphatidylserine and phosphatidic acid.

Ninety-six patients were given the product three times a day, while a control group received a placebo. The patients' physiological condition was measured, and patients and relatives were queried on whether they wanted to continue taking the pills. The researchers found that the daily functioning of those who received Al-Telect deteriorated less than the control group. The dementia in those tak-

ing Al-Telect was slowed, and in some, there was even an improvement. The effect was most marked in patients in the early stages of the disease.

Nearly half of those on Al-Telect wanted to continue taking the pills, while no one taking the placebo wanted to continue. A previous Kaplan study of phosphatidylserine on healthy people with age-related memory problems that were not due to Alzheimer's, found that their memory improved after taking the product.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Namdar to head road safety council**  
Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy this week named Dr. Aharon Namdar, a lecturer at Bar-Ilan University, as chairman of the National Council for the Prevention of Accidents. Namdar, 51, replaces Judge Dov Levine, who is retiring after serving for 14 years. Namdar heads Bar-Ilan's Israel Society for Legal Aid. (Haim Shapiro)

**Request to extend Hebron observer force**  
Foreign Ministry director-general Eitan Benzur and Sach Erekat, responsible for Palestinian Authority local government affairs, yesterday signed a joint letter asking the Norwegian government to extend the operation of the Norwegian force in Hebron.

Norway currently operates in the framework of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), in accordance with a temporary agreement signed about six months ago. When an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the redeployment in Hebron is reached, the international presence in the city will be expanded, and other countries will also participate in it. (Jerusalem Post Staff)

**El Al, Tower fight for winter passengers**  
The fight for the off-season passenger developed into a full-fledged price war this week with both El Al and Tower Air offering a round-trip fare of \$699 from Ben-Gurion Airport to New York.

Tower had announced the low fare on Tuesday, with El Al following later in the day. Both fares go into effect on Monday. El Al said that the price would remain in effect until December 31, and would include the Hanukka and Christmas seasons.

"El Al will compete on prices as well as service, because every passenger is important to us," said Yoel Feldman, the national airline's new director-general, in announcing the new fare.

In addition to the New York fare, El Al is offering low prices to other American destinations, such as \$907 to Los Angeles, \$843 to Chicago, \$865 to Miami, and \$879 to Orlando. (Haim Shapiro)

**Sara Netanyahu's secretary reportedly quits**  
Rosey Foristi, Sara Netanyahu's personal secretary, quit her job yesterday, according to Channel 2. The station reported that the secretary informed her superiors that she could no longer take working with Mrs. Netanyahu and the treatment she was receiving from her.

The report added that "immediately after the elections, a special bureau was opened in the Prime Minister's Office for the prime minister's wife, something that was never done before," and that "her personal secretary was brought in specially from the Likud as a political appointment." The Prime Minister's Office last night denied the report. (Irim)

## PERSONALS

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## ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1)

"What we seek in Hebron are security arrangements which are completely compatible with the peace deal," Netanyahu said in a speech to business executives in Tel Aviv. "They have nothing to do with reopening the agreements."

In a statement released last night, Ross announced that the peace talks would move from Erez to Taba and Eilat, where discussions will be held on a rotating basis.

Furthermore, he said, "both sides agreed that they are not reopening or renegotiating the [Oslo 2] agreement and that they are discussing the mechanisms and the modalities for how best to implement the agreement."

Shortly after making his speech, Arafat spoke to 40 representatives from donor countries, including Israel. He told them that many Palestinians are on the verge of starvation and that poverty and peace do not go together.

Hours later, the Defense Ministry announced a significant easing of the closure to help Palestinians economically, despite immediate security fears. Yesterday evening, the economic sub-committee of the joint Israeli-Palestinian steering committee met at the Erez checkpoint to discuss long-term economic problems, including employment, raising exports, and investment.

Arafat was welcomed to the council session by a marching band and cheering schoolgirls, as well as a large number of ordinary civilians, indicating increased popular support.

On his last visit to Ramallah on August 28, he called for a general strike the following day and for a mass pilgrimage to Al-Aksa Mosque the following Friday. However, checkpoints were reinforced to prevent a surge of Bethlehem and Ramallah residents from trying to enter the city and few tried to enter.

"The recent events [the violence of September 25 to 27] have made Arafat the symbol he was before he came to Gaza. People had been criticizing him more than ever before, but now he has become a symbol again," Husam Khader, a legislator from Balata refugee camp, said yesterday.

Two months ago, Khader, who was imprisoned 23 times by Israel, was reprimanded by Council chairman Ahmed Qreia during a session in Bethlehem for saying that the Palestinian people felt that the human rights situation under the Palestinian Police was worse than under Israeli occupation.

Yesterday, he said his own observations of the September shootings, which he said Israeli troops began, had changed his attitude toward the Palestinian Police.

As for Arafat, he noted, "One word from him brought the people out against the soldiers and one word made them stop."

## HUSSEIN

(Continued from Page 1)

that King Hussein is deeply disappointed by Netanyahu's handling of the peace efforts.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher said that it is rare for the king to go public with criticism.

"The king and the government always work in quiet diplomacy to affect things," Muasher said in an interview with Army Radio. "The fact that the king has been so vocal recently... reflects a deep disappointment... with the policies so far."

Foreign Minister David Levy played down the friction.

"When a small cloud passes over, that does not mean, heaven forbid, that the whole house of cards is collapsing," he told Army Radio.

"We have relations of peace with Jordan. They have their own reasons and interests, which are not always identical [to ours], but from there to talking about a crisis, a rift - it is not like that," Levy said.

The Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv, meanwhile, received two bomb threats this week, including one yesterday. Employees were evacuated from the embassy building for two hours yesterday, but no explosives were found.

The sound of shooting was heard near the border with Jordan, not far from Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov in the very early hours of yesterday morning. Israel Radio reported that IDF troops on patrol in the area opened fire toward the suspected source of the shooting. Subsequent searches, however, revealed no trace of any gunman. The Jordanian authorities were informed of the incident.

## STABLES

(Continued from Page 1)

ished, and only then would the site be officially opened. In the meantime, however, some Muslim worshippers will be allowed inside, starting today.

"People are very excited and happy that we have finally finished the work, and I am sure some of them will try to pray there tomorrow," Hussaini said.

"We understand their excitement, and won't stop them. There are carpets ready for people to put on the ground."

"We aren't planning any celebrations," he added. "For us, Marawani is not a new mosque, but an area that we have used in the past that was closed for several months for renovations and is now being reopened."

מלך מן אלול



# Yankees top Orioles in 11

NEW YORK (AP) - Bernie Williams joined Chris Chambliss and Reggie Jackson, famous for October homers in Yankee Stadium. And 12-year-old Jeff Maier joined Al Giarrardo and Sandy Amoros, famous for their postseason glove work there.

Three innings after Maier struck his glove over the right-field fence and turned a probable flyout into a game-tying homer, Williams hit a shot deep into the left-field stands.

So instead of Baltimore winning the opener of the AL championship series, the Yankees escaped with a 5-4, 11-inning victory Wednesday.

"This is about as close as it comes to one play beating you," Orioles manager Davey Johnson said.

Maier's move gave an eighth-inning homer to New York's Derek Jeter that tied the score 4-4. Baltimore's Tony Tarasco had set under Jeter's fly against the 9-foot wall in right.

But Maier, a Little League pitcher and center fielder, stuck out his gloved left hand above Tarasco and pulled the ball away. Right field umpire Rich Garcia called it a home run, then admitted after looking at a replay that he blew the call.

"I thought the ball was going out of the ballpark," Garcia said. "I saw the fan reach out, he did not reach down. In my judgment, he did not interfere with the guy attempting to catch the ball. It probably was a situation where the ball would have hit the wall."

Garcia said that if he had looked at a replay before the call, he would have ruled the play a double. Tarasco disagreed.

"It was like a magic trick, really. I was about to close my glove," he said. "Merlin must be in the house, abracadabra somewhere."

Garcia asked the other umpires for their opinions, but none saw the play well enough to overrule him. Johnson was ejected during the ensuing argument and protested because the Yankees didn't have security in the right-field corner to prevent interference.

"I was told there would be security there so this would not happen," Johnson said.

Security was increased - but to prevent fans from throwing anything at Roberto Alomar. Still the focus of attention after he spit at umpire John Hirschbeck on the last weekend of the regular season - Baltimore's All-Star second baseman was booed long and loud each time he went to the plate.

Alomar extended his slump to 7-for-36 by going 1-for-6 with three strikeouts - one on a called strike in the first that appeared to be well off the plate.

He made the final out of four innings, but did manage a great defensive play when he threw out Cecil Fielder in the sixth while falling from his right knee on the center field grass.

Maier's defensive play was more critical, though he didn't get to keep the ball - another fan snatched it away.

"I was just trying to catch the ball," Maier, from Old Tappan, N.J., said. "I feel bad for the Baltimore fans. But as a Yankee fan, if I helped the team I feel pretty good. I think I had a right to catch it because I thought it was going to go out."

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THE FAT LADY SINGS - Bernie Williams, whose 11th-inning home run gave the Yankees the AL Championship series opener, is congratulated by third base coach Willie Randolph.

Both homers were by left-handed batters off Andy Pettitte, who started the opener instead of David Cone because lefties have been more effective against the Orioles. Pettitte allowed 23 homers in 34 regular-season starts, but just one was to a left-hander: the Rangers' Rusty Greer on April 14.

While the field still was damp from Tuesday's downpour, it was sunny for the first postseason day game at Yankee Stadium in 15 years. And the ballpark's famous autumn sun field in left led to the game's first run.

Tim Lincecum pop fell in front of BJ Surhoff in the first, and he came around on groundouts by Wade Boggs and Williams.

Eddie Murray's RBI groundout in the second tied it, but Jim Leyritz's run-scoring grounder put the Yankees ahead in the bottom half.

Surhoff's sacrifice fly put Baltimore ahead 4-2 in the sixth, but Armando Benitez walked pinch-hitter Darryl Strawberry with two outs and the bases loaded in the seventh.

"We had a lot of opportunities," Johnson said. "We gave them a couple of runs early in the game and made some fielding mistakes. It should not have been that close."

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# Maccabi staves off pesky Panionios

MACCABI Tel Aviv put on its best display of the season last night in Athens, holding off a pesky Panionios to post a 74-69 win and improve its Euro League record to 3-1.

The victory - Maccabi's first in Greece in the championships since defeating Aris Saloniki on February 23, 1989 - keeps the Israelis in a first-place tie with Stefanel Milan in Group A.

Doron Sheffer came alive to score six of his overall 13 points in the last two minutes of the game after Panionios had charged back from a 10-point halftime deficit to close the margin to 64-62 with only 2:15 on the clock.

Sheffer, who was only 3-9 from the field before his late-game spurt, took charge of the offense when Maccabi appeared ready to hand the game to a clearly inferior Greek club.

He sank two free throws and then connected on two straight shots (one on a beautiful drive to the basket), both of which followed Panionios baskets and several turnovers by Maccabi.

The Greeks, who fell to 2-2 in the championships and lost for the first time at home after two victories, were doomed by some dreadful shooting from three-point range (3-16, 18.7 percent) and an equally embarrassing 62.5 percent (20-32) accuracy from the free-throw line.

Former NBA player Mitchell Wiggins was a particularly guilty party. He entered the game leading Panionios in scoring with a 18.3 average, but managed only seven

points on the night (none in the second half) and made just one of six free throws. He is now only 10-24 (41.6%) from the charity stripe in the championships.

Panionios, also helped do itself in with some foolish play down the stretch.

After cutting the margin to 64-62, Panionios sent Sheffer to the line with a foul. As his second shot went through the net, Miroslav Peticarski committed a needless foul on Nadav Henefeld, who also sank both free-throw to give Maccabi a gift 68-62 advantage with 1:55 remaining.

Immediately previous to that, Panionios blew a golden opportunity after a Maccabi missed shot. The Greeks rebounded the ball and Federico Fieri sped down the court on a fast break and an apparently easy score. But Brad Leaf slid into defensive position and took the charge to stymie the rally.

That play was indicative of another superb performance off the bench by Leaf, who nailed a three-pointer seconds after entering the game in the second half when Randy White fouled out and Panionios cut the lead to 54-51 with 1:10 left.

Leaf was also instrumental in rebuilding the advantage in the first half.

Maccabi had jumped out to a 20-9 lead six minutes into the game, thanks mainly to nine quick points by the sharp-shooting Borko Radovic.

But after the Greeks answered

with eight unanswered points to cut the advantage to 20-17 with 12:15 remaining in the half, the recently inserted Leaf took charge of the offense.

He scored four points, assisted on several baskets, pulled down three rebounds and kept alive the ball on the offensive end of the court on Maccabi's last attack of the half to finish off a 24-17 run and send the Israelis into the locker room with a 44-34 margin.

Panionios came out after the break and immediately chipped away at the lead. Although they pulled within one point at 59-58 with 7:35 remaining, Panionios never caught up and in fact did not lead the entire game.

Henefeld led Maccabi with 14 points, while Sheffer had 13, Buck Johnson 12, Radovic 9 and Leaf and Oded Katash 7 each.

Panionios was paced by Theofanis Christodoulou with 13 points and Gerrit Hammink with 10. Foreigner Keith Gatlin had only 9 points (6 from the free-throw line), while Wiggins and George Kalaitzis collected 7 each.

In other Group A action, Limoges defeated visiting Ulker 84-80 and host Stefanel Milan beat CSKA Moscow 87-74.

GROUP A				
Team	W	L	Pts	
Maccabi Tel Aviv	3	1	7	
Stefanel Milan	3	1	7	
Panionios	2	2	6	
Ulker	2	2	6	
CSKA Moscow	1	3	5	
Limoges	1	3	5	

# Liverpool's Matteo winning battle against injury

LONDON (Reuters) - England call-up Dominic Matteo is winning his battle to play in the heart of Liverpool's defense in tomorrow's Premier League clash with Manchester United.

Matteo, 22, who won a place in Glenn Hoddle's squad for Wednesday's match against Poland, is recovering from an injury to his right knee.

After being sidelined for almost two weeks, he is hoping to oust Neil Ruddock from the team to face the defending champions at Old Trafford.

Ruddock is on stand-by but will face the wrath of United's fans if he plays. In a reserve match between the two Lancashire sides last Saturday his challenge left United striker Andy Cole with broken bones in both legs.

Liverpool manager Roy Evans was playing down the incident on yesterday.

"The pre-match hype involving Razor (Ruddock) will be whipped up by the media but there was no malice in his challenge on Cole. The lad was through and Razor made a last-ditch tackle. That is all. There was no great intent."

Ruddock said: "I was shocked when I found out he was badly injured. I can only assume it was the way he fell because there was certainly no malice in my challenge."

Liverpool forward Robbie Fowler, the other England squad member sidelined this week, is rated as 50-50 for tomorrow with an ankle injury which has kept him out of the past two matches.

Line-up: Peter Schmeichel, Gary Neville, Gary Pallister, David May, Denis Irwin, David Beckham, Eric Cantona, Nicky Butt, Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs, Karl Koborsky, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Brian McClair, Paul Scholes.

LIVERPOOL

Playing style: Manager Roy Evans favors a fluid 3-5-2 formation with an emphasis on solid defense and very quick counter-attacks in the traditional Liverpool style of short, sharp, speedy passing and hard running off the ball.

Strengths: Confidence is high for the league leaders after an unbeaten start to the season and seven straight wins, their best run since 1990. Patrick Berger's goals and Steve McManaman's growing authority in midfield are other key strengths.

Weaknesses: An over-elaborate passing game sometimes causes them to lose the initiative.

Motivation: Nothing would give Liverpool more satisfaction than avenging their FA Cup final defeat and ending United's long unbeaten home record.

Line-up: David James, John Scales, Neil Ruddock, Jason McAteer, Dominic Matteo, Phil Babb, Steve McManaman, Stan Collymore, Michael Thomas, Robbie Fowler, Jamie Redknapp, John Barnes, Patrick Berger, Lee Jones.

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Indian spinners Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi and Aashish Kapoor exploited a dry and cracked pitch to dismiss Australia for 182 on the first day of the one-off Test yesterday.

India was 57 for one at the close after losing opener Vikram Rathore for five when he was caught by Ricky Ponting at mid-wicket off paceman Paul Reiffel.

Leg-spinner Kumble snapped off four for 63, left-arm spinner Joshi captured two for 36 and Kapoor took two for 30 with his off-breaks as Australia collapsed from 81 for one.

Paceman Venkatesh Prasad and a run out accounted for the other two wickets after Australia won the toss on a surface that was expected to aid the slow bowlers.

Prasad made the initial breakthrough, trapping captain Mark Taylor for 27, and Ponting was yanked by Kapoor for 14 in the last over before lunch.

Ponting's dismissal marked the start of the decline in which Australia's last nine wickets tumbled for 101.

Top scorer Michael Slater was caught and bowled by Kumble for 44, made in 130 minutes off 96 deliveries and including six fours, and Steve Waugh (0) was caught behind by a fumbling Nayan Mongia off an inside edge off Kapoor.

Mark Waugh and Michael Bevan briefly checked the slide by adding 49 for the fifth wicket before Bevan, playing across the line, was trapped leg before by Joshi for 26.

MACCABI Tel Aviv and league-leading Betar Jerusalem present a very attractive centerpiece for the fifth round of National League action this weekend.

The league leaders are, together with Hapoel Petah Tikva, the only two teams with 100 percent records after four rounds of action; and the defending champions have clawed their way back into third place in the standings.

The clash comes in the wake of Israel's excellent display against Russia on Wednesday night and will undoubtedly be a passionate affair, as Maccabi tries to maintain its 20-month unbeaten home record and Betar attempts to hold onto the top spot in the standings.

Itzik Zohar will undoubtedly be the man of the moment as he tries to prove to Maccabi that it was wrong in letting him go. Elsewhere, Hapoel Haifa hosts Hapoel Petah Tikva in an attempt to regain some confidence at the expense of the visitors' 100 percent record, while Maccabi Petah Tikva plays host to Maccabi Haifa as the two also attempt to make an assault on the top of the standings.

Hapoel Beersheba welcomes Hapoel Taiba in a match which the managements have billed as an exercise in sportsmanship. The players have been asked to shake hands after every foul or rough tackle.

The police are not taking any chances, however, and they will be on hand at the Beersheba municipal stadium in case of trouble.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off at 15:00 tomorrow unless stated):

Hapoel Jerusalem vs. Zefranim Holon, Teddy Stadium, today, 15:00; Ironi Rishon LeZion vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Hapoel Bet She'an vs. Hapoel Kfar Sava; Maccabi Petah Tikva vs. Maccabi Haifa, 15:30; Hapoel Haifa vs. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Kiryat Eliezer, 15:45; Hapoel Beersheba vs. Hapoel Taiba, 15:30; Maccabi Herzliya vs. Bnei Yehuda; Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Betar Jerusalem, National Stadium, 17:45.

# Smoltz, Lopez lead Braves past Cardinals

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Braves expect John Smoltz to pitch well in October and count on Javy Lopez to deliver clutch hits.

The real surprise was all those empty seats - then again, maybe these fans are just waiting for another World Series.

Lopez broke his bat on a tie-breaking, two-run single in the eighth inning and the Braves, behind yet another strong pitching performance, beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-2 Wednesday night in Game 1 of the NL championship series.

"It's very important to win this one because now we can come in tomorrow more confident and relaxed," Lopez said.

Smoltz improved to 7-1 lifetime in the postseason, but that was no shocker. Baseball's defending champions expect that from the ace who led the majors in wins and strikeouts this season.

"I would say overall, this is my atmosphere. I'm comfortable in this," Smoltz said.

There were, however, about 3,000 unoccupied seats in the upper deck in center field. It marked the first non-sellout in the Braves' history of 28 home post-season games, but the team already has sold all of its tickets for a possible World Series.

The fans - at least the ones that showed up - saw a hell of a game. Atlanta's Chipper Jones said.

Jones went 4-for-4, including a misplayed bunt single in the eighth, as the Braves won their

eight straight home game in the postseason.

"We made some mistakes," Cardinals' manager Tony La Russa said. "When you sit back at night and think about how they scored those two runs in the eighth, it's going to grate at you."

Mark Wohlers pitched the ninth inning and earned the save as he did in each game of the first-round sweep of Los Angeles, during which Atlanta held the Dodgers to .147 hitting.

Game 2 was scheduled for last night, with Greg Maddux facing Todd Stottlemyre of the Cardinals. Games 3, 4 and 5 (if necessary) will be played tomorrow, Sunday and Monday at St. Louis's Busch Stadium.

Smoltz limited St. Louis to five hits over eight innings. He struck out six and walked two.

The Cardinals had caused more trouble for Smoltz than any team throughout his career. They had gone 9-5 against him, and stopped his 14-game winning streak in June.

St. Louis starter Andy Benes, who beat Smoltz back in June, allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings. He struck out seven and walked none, and remained winless in five career postseason starts. Reliever Mark Petkovsek took the loss.

Mark Lemke, who hit a two-run single earlier, drew a leadoff walk from Petkovsek in the eighth. Jones followed with a bunt that bounced high, and Petkovsek slipped trying to field it.

Petkovsek whipped a throw to second baseman Luis Alica, covering first base on the play, but Jones knocked the ball out of Alica's glove and Lemke made it to third.

"It wasn't your routine bunt back to the pitcher," La Russa said.

Tony Fossas relieved and retired Fred McGriff on a popup. After Jones stole second, pinch-hitter Terry Pendleton was intentionally walked to load the bases.

TJ Mathews relieved, and Lopez, who was 3-for-25 in his career with the bases loaded, managed to hit an O-2 pinch up the middle for a single.

"Lopez, though, has gotten a bunch of key October hits in the last two seasons."

The Cardinals tied it at 2 with a run in the seventh, although a curious decision by La Russa may have cost them a chance to score more.

Gary Gaetti, John Mabry and Tom Pagnozzi began the inning with singles, producing a run. That brought up Alica, the No. 8 hitter, with runners on first and second and no outs.

But La Russa, whose team led the majors with 88 sacrifices this season, chose not to bunt. Instead, Alica swung at the first pitch and hit an easy fly ball to left.

Willie McGee pinch hit for Benes and also flied out to left on the first pitch. After a wild pitch, Smoltz escaped by retiring Ozzie Smith on a slow grounder, with shortstop Jeff Blausen cutting in and making a nice play.

# Indian spin trio wrecks Australia

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# Betar tries to keep champs at bay

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# Red Wings acquire Shanahan

DETROIT (AP) - The Detroit Red Wings acquired Brendan Coffey and a No. 1 draft pick to trade with Hartford. The Red Wings sent holdout Keith Primeau, veteran Paul Coffey and a No. 1 draft pick to the Hartford Whalers in exchange for Shanahan and a minor leaguer.

WEDNESDAY'S NHL RESULTS: NY Islanders 3, Ottawa 3; Montreal 6, Los Angeles 3; Detroit 2, Edmonton 0; Anaheim 2, Chicago 0; St. Louis 3, Calgary 1; Buffalo 2, Vancouver 1.



